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Issue no 238

## Candidates optimistic ready for election day

By Chrissie Daniels

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LABOUR are "quietly hopeful" they will win seats on Maidstone Borough Council when the public take to the polls for Thursday's election.

The council is currently Conservative led, made up of 30 Tories, 21 Liberal Democrats and four Independents.

One third of the council's members will be elected on Thursday over 19 wards but residents in Heath Ward will vote twice as Liberal Democrat councillor Jenni Sharp has resigned her seat.

Labour candidate Jim Grogan, running for Shepway North, said: "Our candidates are finding more support among the voters than they have in recent elections in Maidstone.

"We accept that we are starting from a low base but have been encouraged by what we have experienced on the doorstep and at our street stalls.

"Although it would be rash to say we are confident of victory in any of the wards we are sure we will greatly improve on our vote last year and so are quietly hopeful that there will be some Labour councillors in



the next Maidstone Borough Council."

Of the 19 wards affected, the Conservatives are defending 10 seats, the Liberal Democrats eight and Independents two.

Richard Ash, Conservative

councillor for Bearsted Ward is "optimistic".

He said: "I'm remaining positive, but you never can tell what's going to happen."

Jenni Paterson, Liberal Democrat councillor for North

ward, said: "I think the Liberal Democrats have a very strong position.

"I feel very buoyant about running and I am getting a lot of positive results on the doorsteps."

The National Front, UKIP, Labour, Conservatives, Liberal Democrats and the Greens all have candidates running in the elections.

Polling stations are open from 7am to 10pm.

### DEVELOPMENT

## Temporary stop to be enforced on unauthorised gypsy site

TOWN hall chiefs in Maidstone have issued a temporary stop notice to prevent the creation of an unauthorised gypsy site in Yalding.

Council officers attended the Willow Lane site to serve the notice, where work had begun to establish a site.

Maidstone council's head of planning, Rob Jarman said: "The council takes unauthorised developments very

seriously and takes enforcement action where appropriate.

"The temporary stop notice covers all further development and engineering works, including hard surfacing, excavation works, and the stationing of additional caravans and mobile homes."

The notice will last for 28 days, at which time the council will consider further enforcement action.

The council has a duty to provide accommodation for gypsies and travellers.

A council-commissioned Salford University report into the need for gypsy accommodation was published in February 2012.

It found that between 2011 and 2026, 157 gypsy pitches should be provided, with 105 of these by 2016. So

far, 23 permanent gypsy pitches have been approved.

A £1.36 million grant from the Homes and Communities Agency will provide a new public site for 15 pitches in the area.

Mr Jarman said the council will take enforcement action whenever unauthorised sites are deemed to be unacceptable on planning grounds.

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### CRIME

## Charged with metal theft

A MAN has been charged following a report of metal theft in Old Tovil Road.

Police were called after 9pm on April 15 to reports of copper being pulled out of wire at the back of houses.

Samuel Willicombe-Barden, 22, was charged with theft and going equipped for theft.

### ENTERTAINMENT

## A funny night at the theatre

COMEDIANS Dave Fulton and Jimmy McGhie are performing tonight at the Hazlitt Arts Centre.

Fulton has appeared on hit shows Never Mind the Buzzcocks and The Comedy Store.

The show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £10. Call 01622 758611.

### EDUCATION

## Learning for university

OAKWOOD Park Grammar is the first state school in Maidstone to run a pre-university qualification equivalent to A level.

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## CELEBRITY

# Only blue skies ahead – Kaddy reveals reasons behind quitting BBC

By Chris Britcher

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KADDY Lee-Preston has revealed the reasons behind her shock departure from the BBC – admitting being dropped from presenting regional magazine show *Inside Out* convinced her it was time to move on.

And she revealed her cheeky presenting style, loved by viewers, often upset straight-laced BBC bosses.

The bubbly weather presenter stunned viewers when she announced she was quitting three weeks ago. It brought the curtain down on an 11-year career on weekday news programme BBC South East Today and its morning and evening bulletins.

Speaking to Kent on Sunday this week from her home in Tunbridge Wells, Miss Lee-Preston, 35, said she accepted a voluntary redundancy package after further huge cuts at the BBC's local studios.

She explained: "Weather's budget had been cut by 50 per cent and voluntary redundancy seemed like the perfect time for me to go and spread my wings. I'd been thinking about a move."

"As soon as I stopped doing *Inside Out* and it changed direction and the presenter, I was then put on the early shift – and I can tell you I am not good in the mornings – and it was not the way I wanted my career to be going."

"*Inside Out* was amazing and I loved it. The mix of that and weather was great. So when they took *Inside Out* away I reassessed my position.

"So it played a big part."

In a move which surprised many, Miss Lee-Preston was dropped from the show and replaced by newsreader Natalie Graham.

Miss Lee-Preston added: "It was a surprise in one sense, but I'd done it for five or six years which was quite a long time."

"I couldn't have chosen a better person than Natalie. That made it easier."

Now going freelance, the popular presenter says she is holding a number of talks with production companies about presenting roles and programme ideas, splitting her time in Kent with jaunts to London.

She also has plans to do more charity work.

She explained: "People said I was mad to leave such a great job, and there may have been a one per cent doubt, but 99 per cent was pure excitement that this was the right time to move on."

"What I'm finding now, and what I hoped would happen, is there aren't enough hours in the day to do the things I want to do now I've left."

"I had a lot of fun at the BBC, but since then my diary is full with worthwhile things and a sense of a new path to take."

"Sometimes my style didn't suit the straight nature of the BBC – my style being a little bit cheeky with my broadcasts, and that didn't always go down well."

"I think overall I caused them a lot of bother and my misbehaving got my boss down a little bit."

"But I have no regrets. I loved it."

• Kaddy Lee-Preston has launched a new website for fans to keep in touch. Visit [www.kaddy.tv](http://www.kaddy.tv).

## COURT

## CCTV film shows man filling garden sprayer with petrol minutes before house is set alight

FOOTAGE of a man filling up a garden sprayer with petrol just 45 minutes before a nearby house went up in flames – killing three people – has been shown to a court.

Dramatic images of the moment crews from Kent Fire and Rescue Service arrived at the fatal blaze in Chatham were also played at the trial into the deaths of Melissa Crook, 20, her son 15-month-old Noah, and her father Mark, 48.

Melissa's ex-husband used car salesman Danai Muhammadi, 24, his girlfriend, unemployed Emma Smith, 21, and Maidstone doorman Farhad Mahmud, 35, are each charged with three counts of murder.

They are also charged with the attempted murders of Melissa's brother Bohdan, 21, and her mum Amanda, who both escaped the fire at the property in Chatham Hill in Chatham in the early hours of September 10, 2011.

Smith, of Barley Lea, Stoke Aldermoor, Coventry, faces an additional charge of conspiracy to commit arson with intent to endanger life.

All three defendants deny the charges.

During the trial at Maidstone Crown Court, footage of a man – said by the prosecution team to be Muhammadi – filling up a petrol can and

garden sprayer at a nearby garage was shown to jurors.

The footage was captured at 1.43am on September 10, last year at the Texaco garage in Maidstone Road in Chatham. Crews were called to the fatal blaze just after 2.30am.

A video of fire crews arriving to the scene showed the property engulfed in flames. It took firefighters three minutes to arrive.

As part of the evidence, an audio recording of Smith calling the fire service was played. She said: "Me and my boyfriend have just gone past a house and it's on fire, it's burning down. I don't know the address but it's Chatham Hill, Chatham in Kent."

Prosecutors claim Muhammadi, of Britannia Street, Coventry, and Mahmud, of Kensington House, Fernhill Road, Maidstone, encouraged by Smith, sprayed petrol through the letterbox of the Crook's home and set it alight.

Muhammadi and Melissa married in Rochester in 2010, and moved to Coventry. The pair split up a few months later and she moved back in with her family in Kent with their son Noah.

The trial continues.



KILLED: Melissa Crook and son Noah



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### ► Town hall in mourning

THE leader of Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council – Cllr Mark Worrall – died on Thursday morning. The father-of-three had been admitted to hospital last week suffering from an illness.

Cllr Worrall, 58, who represented West Malling and Leybourne, was first elected to the council in May, 1982. He was elected leader of the Tory group in 1985 and remained leader until his death. He was leader of the council from 1985-95 and again from 2003 to his death.

### ► No end to hosepipe ban

DESPITE heavy downpours across the county this week the hosepipe ban will remain in place.

Southern Water, one of five companies serving the county, said Kent would need a lot more rain over a long period of time to replenish resources.

The hosepipe ban came into effect on April 5, after the worst drought for 30 years. Anyone caught breaking the water restrictions could face a £1,000 fine.

### ► Sir Brandon Gough dies

SIR Brandon Gough, a Deputy Lieutenant of Kent, who took on several other high-profile roles in the county, has died suddenly aged 74 on Thursday. Sir Brandon was also chairman of Locate in Kent, chairman of Leeds Castle Foundation, and a trustee of Canterbury Cathedral as well as being patron of Rochester Cathedral's Business Guild.

He was knighted in the New Years Honours of 2002 for his public service. Born on Merseyside in 1937, Sir Brandon was married with three

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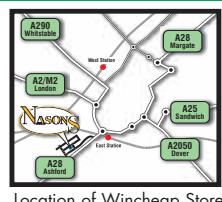


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## News

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## CRIME

# Riot compensation bids dismissed – as there was no disorder

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT Police say six people who tried to claim compensation for damage to their premises during the violent riots last summer have failed – because there were no riots in Kent.

To make a claim under the Riots (Damages) Act, official riot status needs to have been declared by the authorities.

Then anyone inside that zone affected by the people involved in the disturbance may be able to claim compensation they suffered as a direct result of the unrest.

But although some parts of the county did experience violent incidents, while other parts of the country were burning, actual riot status in the county was never declared.

It seems people around the country felt it was a good chance to cash in on the August 6-10 riots in London by claiming youths in their area were causing riot damage, and put in claims.

The phantom claims appeared from counties including Lincolnshire, Cheshire and Northumbria, as well as the half dozen in Kent.

A spokesman for the force said: "Kent Police received six claims for compensation against the Kent Police Authority submitted under the provisions of the Riot (Damages) Act 1886.

"None have been settled or are pending since there were no riots declared in Kent during the summer of 2011.

"Any incidents occurring in Kent were deemed violent disorder, theft and criminal damage and

therefore did not fall within the provisions of the 1886 Act."

The issue of bogus claims came up during a House of Lords debate by Lord Henley where some were described as "overgenerous".

In Chatham and Gillingham there were at least 11 arrests following disturbances, and rumours were rife online that a major riot in the Medway towns was being plotted. It never happened.

Fires were started in Dartford and there was an arrest in Margate of a man suspected of inciting a riot.

Two 18-year-olds were arrested in Folkestone for allegedly using social networking sites to encourage people to join in a riot.

Other minor incidents included criminal damage to cars in Wilmington and Dartford. A motorbike was damaged at a supermarket in Maidstone where youths knocked the bike over. There was minor criminal damage to a bus in Herne Bay high street, and damage to a window in Whitstable.

Petrol stations were advised not to sell fuel in cans, and Bluewater security was beefed up

At the time, Deputy Chief Constable Alan Pughley said: "Kent Police will continue to challenge any hint of disorder or criminal behaviour", and he added they were working hard to keep the county "safe".

The fatal shooting of 29-year-old Mark Duggan by Met Police officers in Tottenham, north London, was the catalyst for the riots.

Kent Police sent some officers to London to support their Met colleagues when the disturbances first broke out.

## HEALTH

## Claims of hospital A&E downgrade dismissed as 'nonsense' by NHS

HEALTH chiefs have denied claims they are planning to downgrade accident and emergency services, branding it "utter nonsense".

It follows the launch of a campaign by activists accusing East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust of seeking to reduce major trauma services at the Queen Elizabeth Queen Mother (QEQM) Hospital in Margate.

They claim hospital bosses are planning to transfer major trauma services from Margate to the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford, meaning seriously injured or sick patients would have to travel 30 miles to receive emergency treatment.

But the NHS argued that the majority of such patients were not treated in Margate anyway and were currently sent to hospitals in London.

A spokesman for the hospital trust said: "Kent Trauma Unit is looking to open three specialist units in Kent; at the William Harvey, Medway Maritime, and Pembury. This will make it better for trauma patients as instead of having to travel all the way to London they can go to places in Kent."

"This does not mean services in Margate will be reduced. It's nonsense. We don't have all specialist services in Margate. You can't have



TARGET: QEQM Hospital in Margate

every specialist unit in every hospital. For example, there is a specialist robot used to operate on prostate cancer in Canterbury and a specialist heart unit in Margate, and so patients travel to either hospital when needed.

"Taking patients to a major trauma unit in Ashford will mean they won't have to go all the way to London. This is a good thing."

But campaigners said they believe the changes could lead to a downgrading of services.

Thanet district councillor Ian Driver said there was massive support for local accident and emergency services.

"I can't see how the long journey to Ashford will save lives," he said.

Campaigners are planning to hold public meetings over the next few weeks to discuss the plans.

"This will impact on every man, woman and child in Thanet."

Protesters said they are meeting with the hospital trust's chief executive Stuart Bain to discuss the plans in greater detail.

A public consultation on the plans is due to take place later this year.

More than 5,000 people have joined a Facebook group calling for the services to be saved.



TROUBLED TIMES: Rioting didn't spread to Kent

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### → 80mph 'wins backing'

WITH the M20 between junctions 4-7 expected to be used to trial the proposed 80mph speed limit, Newington travel company HolidayExtras.com says a poll of its customers found 72 per cent had no objections to the motorway speed limit rising to 80mph, and five per cent thought 80mph was not fast enough.

Almost a quarter of those surveyed (23 per cent) thought the proposed change was a terrible idea that would increase road traffic accidents.

### → Free school plan boost

PLANS for Hadlow College Community Free School have passed another government hurdle and will now be considered in more detail by the Department for Education next month.

The proposed new school, which would open in September, 2013, would be free of council control and would offer pupils aged 11-16 a "rural ethos".

It would be built within the campus of Hadlow College, close to Tonbridge.

### → Cowboy builder jailed

BUILDER John Guerin, 56, of Victoria Gardens, Biggin Hill, has been jailed for five years after pleading guilty to a charge of obtaining money by deception and 10 charges of fraud. Guerin quoted for building works, and having received 90 per cent or more of the payment he would abandon the works. Many customers had to move out of their homes as they had been destroyed by poor workmanship.

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## CRIME

**OAP's Spanish benefit fraud**

AN OAP has been found guilty of claiming benefits while living in Spain for the last five years.

Patricia Lawrence, 74, of Bybrook Road, Kennington, was found guilty of dishonesty failing to notify Ashford Borough Council the property was not her main home. She had received £7,851.37 housing benefit and £3,202.10 council tax benefit. She was given a two-year conditional discharge.

## SPORT

**Club to host 1966 legend**

BARMING Youth FC will welcome England legend Sir Geoff Hurst when the 1966 World Cup winner visits the club to help promote McDonald's 2012 FA Community Awards.

The awards aim to recognise the efforts of the people that dedicate their time in, week out to grassroots football.

The Maidstone club will host Sir Geoff on Saturday.

## DEATH

**Classmates mourning after pupil dies during school rounders game**

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

TRIBUTES have been pouring in for tragic schoolgirl Nicky Payne who collapsed while playing rounders and later died.

The 15-year-old was playing at Angley School in Cranbrook when she collapsed.

She was rushed by ambulance to the William Harvey hospital in Ashford, where she was pronounced dead despite attempts to resuscitate her.

The sudden death of the happy teenager has shocked friends and family, and other students at the sports school.

The alarm was raised at about 11.30am on Tuesday, when Nicola suddenly slumped to the ground during a rounders game.

Until a post-mortem has been completed the police say they are treating the death as 'unexplained', but stress it is not being treated as suspicious and no-one is being sought.

Angley executive headteacher Debbie Coslett said: "Everyone at the school is extremely shocked and saddened by Nicky's death."

"Our thoughts and deepest sympathies are with her family and friends at this very difficult time. Nicky played a full part in the life of the

school and was the first to volunteer for any activity. She especially loved taking part in school shows.

"It will take time for all those who knew her to come to terms with what has happened.

"We will be offering support to her friends, all students and staff at the school. Educational psychologists will also be in school to support wherever necessary."

Pupils at the school were told of the tragedy during an assembly later the same day.

On a special Facebook remembrance page, Carolyn Asplin wrote: "RIP Nicola and thinking of all your family and friends at this very sad time."

And Anita Goacher said: "Goodnight Princess, sleep right." Naatalie Jayy Smith said: "Goodnight Nicola may you rest in peace! You will never be forgotten."

Paul Blunt said: "My daughter has been telling me stories of her – made her laugh and stood up to people who bullied her. Tammy said going to miss her."

And Liza Homewood wrote: "Such sad news my thoughts are with her lovely family. Nicola will be greatly missed."

Another friend Tammy Blunt, 14, said Nicky would be remembered as "a really good dancer



## TRADEGY:

Friends of Nicky Payne, who died on Tuesday, have been leaving their tributes on a special Facebook page created for the pupil of Angley School

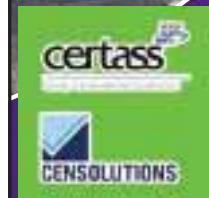
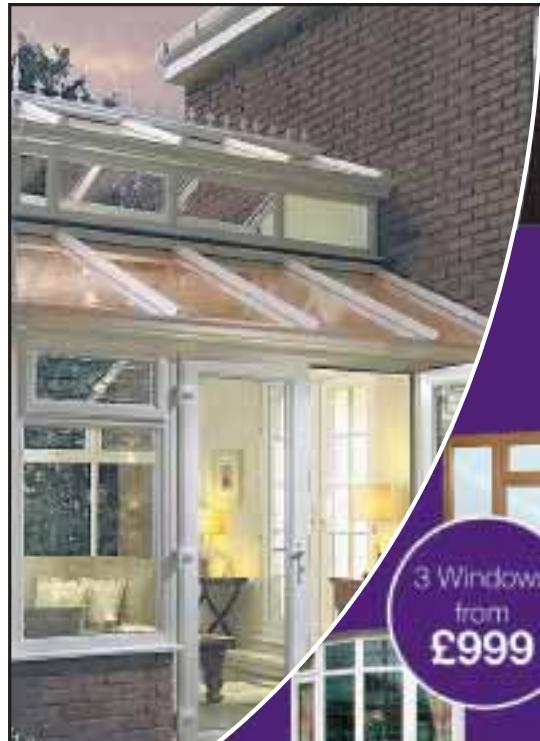
and singer", and Rhys Vausden, 15, added she was always "happy, lively, and cheerful. Everyone was in shock. No-one could believe it."

Kent Police said: "We were called to Angley School in Cranbrook after a 15-year-old girl collapsed during a game of rounders.

"The girl, Nicky Payne, was taken to William Harvey Hospital in Ashford, but hospital staff were unable to revive her.

"The death is being treated as unexplained, but there are not currently thought to be any suspicious circumstances. Nicky's family are being supported by a family liaison officer from Kent Police and the coroner has been notified."

An investigation is still being conducted and an inquest is likely to be held at some stage because of the circumstances of the death, but this has not yet been finally decided.



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## ARMED FORCES

# Families' French pilgrimage to opening of tribute to 'lost' soldiers who died in Battle of the Somme

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE poignant stories of Kent soldiers who died in the bloodiest battle in the history of the British Army, but whose bodies have never been found, are among those told at a new exhibition.

Many of the dead from the World War One trenches have no graves as casualties were blown apart by shells, buried by massive explosions, or drowned in flooded shell holes.

The names of 72,000 of them are commemorated on a giant memorial at Thiepval in France – built 80 years ago.

The Missing of the Somme is the title of a display which is being held at the Historial de la Grande Guerre museum in the town of Peronne, France. Relatives of some of the Kent troops last week attended the opening of the exhibition, which runs until November 25.

Brian Ledger, from Headcorn, has been researching the story of his great uncle Bernard Lampard from Lenham, who died aged 28, after being hit by a shell near Skyline Trench on August 13, 1916, during the Battle of the Somme.

"I am very proud of him and seeing where he fought has been very emotional," said Mr Ledger. "The landscape may have changed, but I can picture how it must have been."

"According to the accounts I have uncovered, his last wish was for a gold ring to be sent back to



**FORGOTTEN SONS:** The Missing of the Somme holds items from some of the Kent soldiers who died in WWI including the Bible (far left) of Bernard Lampard (left, with his mother Kate)

England – but where that is now I don't know.

"I found out a lot about him from letters which had been sent by one of his comrades, and to honour his memory I intend to cycle from my home to the scene of the battle, following the route he took to the front. There is always a ceremony to commemorate the start of the battle on July 1 and I intend to be there."

Sarah Duncan is grand-daughter of Rupert Inglis an Army chaplain who was, prior to joining up, rector of Frittenden, near Staplehurst.

He was also an England rugby international who played three matches for his country.

Ms Duncan said: "He was told he was too old to join up by his bishop, but he said that if his parishioners were fighting he must experience

what they are going through.

"He died aged 54, and although his body was buried, the ground under which he lay was fought over again and the grave lost.

"He was Chaplain to the Forces, but volunteered as a stretcher bearer. During fighting he was trying to bring back wounded soldiers when he was struck by a shell fragment. He was in the process of having that wound attended to when he was hit by a second shell and killed.

"He wasn't really talked about by family members, maybe they kept it all bottled up. But now a photograph of him forms the centrepiece of the official exhibition poster – a real honour."

Other soldiers honoured include Norman Wood, whose family are from Dunton Green, a

footballer who played for Chelsea and Spurs; and James Blown, a fisherman from Deal who died the day after he helped bury a comrade from the same town.

The exhibition was the idea of Ken and Pam Linge who started off by researching the stories of people from their own Northumberland village.

"These men may be missing, but they should never be forgotten," said Mrs Linge.

## Historial de la Grande Guerre

Chateau de Peronne, 80210 Péronne, France. Open daily from 10am-6pm. [www.historial.org](http://www.historial.org) P&O Ferries offers 26 return sailings a day on its Dover-Calais service. Fares for a car and passengers (up to nine people) are from £70 return. [www.POferrries.com](http://www.POferrries.com) or call 08716 646464.

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## News

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## ENTERTAINMENT

# Funnyman is cooking up a comedy storm with his curry stage show

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE former One Show reporter and ace Indian cook Hardeep Singh Kohli is bringing his new show of comedy and curries to the county.

The comedian and TV celebrity said he had been a keen cook since the age of 10, and decided it would be a great platform for an improvised live comedy show.

He said: "It is done as a sort of challenge. We order a meal from a local Indian takeaway and while it is on its way I cook live on stage the same meal, and then we compare to see how I have done.

"In between is a great time to have a chat and tell some stories. It tends to be made up as we go along, so no two shows will be exactly the same."

But Kohli, 43, said he is not out to put down any local restaurants. It will simply be a comparison exercise.

He said: "The British have a love affair with Indian food. I don't know any other country in the world that loves it as much as us, and we all have our own ideas on what is best and how best to prepare it.

"The country is obsessed with curry and I want people to see how it can be done at home. My recipes were inspired by my mum and no-one can do it as well as she can, not even me."

At the beginning of each show



**HOT STUFF:** Hardeep Singh Kohli will cook a curry on stage

Kohli, who grew up in Glasgow, will order a takeaway for delivery to the venue, having selected a local Indian takeaway from audience suggestions submitted via HardeepLive.com.

He will order an audience member's favourite meal, and while waiting for it to arrive Kohli cooks his own food.

He said: "We have had Indian food here for about 50 years and now people want to go a little bit deeper and I aim to show that restaurant food is great, but there is a whole new world where they can do it at home."

In fact he is such a fan of taking this food to the masses that Indian Takeaway is the third incarnation of the show in various guises over the past two years, following The Nearly Naked Chef and Chat Masala.

Kohli was a runner-up on the first series of Celebrity MasterChef which led to two series

for UKTV Food: New British Kitchen, and Chef and the City.

His first book, Indian Takeaway, was nominated for an Independent Book Award, and he added: "All the recipes I will be using on stage will be in a book to be released soon to show how easy it can be.

"There are so many funny stories around this food, so it will be an evening of fun, too.

"I worked as a waiter and manager since my teenage years, but I have never cooked professionally. I didn't learn to cook for the shows – I have been cooking since I was 10, so this is all coming naturally."

He will be cooking at Tonbridge School, Tonbridge, on Friday, May 4, call 01732 304241; and Woodville Halls, Gravesend, on Sunday, May 25, call 01474 33 77 74.

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[www.yourtonbridge.co.uk](http://www.yourtonbridge.co.uk).

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## ENTERTAINMENT

## X Factor's auditions to search for county stars

X FACTOR auditions are coming to Kent – as Simon Cowell's ITV ratings-winner stretches out its wings in a bid to find the competition's next winner. Chatham hosts a day-long audition on May 12 at a location yet to be confirmed. Fans hoping to see judges like Gary Barlow and Louis Walsh may be disappointed. The stars are due to only attend major city auditions – with an audition van heading off to the regions in search of talent.

## CRIME

## Drug smuggling OAP is finally behind bars

A PENSIONER who jumped bail during his trial 15 years ago for smuggling 10,000 ecstasy tablets worth £150,000 into the UK has finally been brought to justice. John Price, 72, of Strood, was arrested at Dover Eastern Docks in June, 1995, after the drugs were found hidden in his vehicle. In April, 1997, Price absconded. He was arrested last week in Hereford and has started his 12 years and six months jail term.

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## News

### HERITAGE

# £12m centre to protect our precious historical records

By **Marijke Cox**

[marijke.cox@archant.co.uk](mailto:marijke.cox@archant.co.uk)

A NEW state-of-the-art history and library centre boasting 14km of precious historic material dating back hundreds of years has opened its doors to the public.

And in a nod to some of history's greats, the grand opening of Kent's History and Library Centre coincided with Shakespeare's birthday and St George's Day.

The new library and archives facility in Maidstone replaces the existing services currently offered at the Centre for Kentish Studies, East Kent Archives Centre, and St Faith's libraries.

Among its treasures are letters by Jane Austen and one from Lord Nelson, as well as a charter dating from AD699 from the King of Kent granting tax relief to a monastery.

Kent County Council cabinet member for customer and communities Cllr Mike Hill, who officially opened the building, said it was an important milestone.



**MODERN:**  
Tens of thousands of books and kilometres of records are stored at the centre, which also offers internet facilities

to come for anyone interested in local history."

The library section of the building offers 40,000 books and the children's library will host regular storytime sessions. There will also be author events, reading groups and community activities, as well as free internet access and wifi.

More than 1,000 people attended the opening on Monday, which included an exhibition of archive treasures, films and readings of Shakespeare by costumed staff.

The Kent Cultural Baton – a mobile artwork travelling the county in the lead up to London 2012 – was also on hand.

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## News

## ANIMAL WELFARE

## Rise in animal cruelty cases leaves RSPCA facing 'crisis'

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ANIMAL cruelty is at "crisis" point in the county, according to the latest figures from the RSPCA.

Officials have been left shocked at levels of neglect, leaving legal action the only course left open to the animal welfare charity.

It has compiled annual cruelty figures as the economic climate continues to bite, forcing some owners to leave their pets to suffer intolerable pain and anxiety.

Overall, the number of people convicted for animal cruelty rose by nearly a quarter in England and Wales last year.

And in Kent last year, some 148 people were reported to the RSPCA for allegedly causing cruelty. Officials obtained convictions in 49 cases.

That is more convictions under the Animals Welfare Act than East and West Sussex and Essex added together. Only greater London had more convictions – 61 from 113 reports.

Convictions have risen over two per cent, and disqualifications from keeping animals have soared 17 per cent in Kent and the South East.

Cruelty to dogs went up 37 per cent, and 85 per cent more defendants went to prison.



**BRUTAL:** The attack on Sparkie

RSPCA chief executive Gavin Grant said: "The RSPCA faces a crisis that is stretching us to breaking point.

"We show zero tolerance to animal abusers. Anyone causing animals pain for profit or pleasure will be tracked down and prosecuted.

"We need the courts and councils, police and people who care, to join us in standing up and getting justice for Britain's abused animals."

South East regional manager Sally Bruce said: "We work closely with governmental and other charitable organisations, but we are the main organisation which prosecutes those who abuse animals and which can prevent cruelty to animals.

"We can't do this without the help and support of the public and we need it now more than ever."

In Welling in January, 2011, a man caught on camera kicking his dog was sentenced to eight weeks in prison and banned from keeping animals for five years.

He was filmed kicking his dog, Sparkie, and pulling him into the air by his lead in Knee Hill Park, near Woolwich, in October, 2010.

Sparkie has since been found a new home by the RSPCA in Tonbridge.

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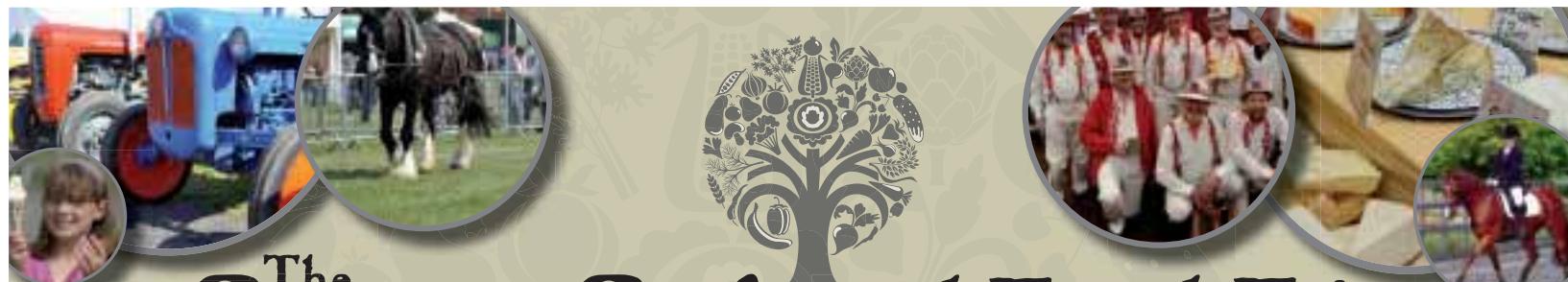
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## News

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## WILDLIFE

# Dormice settlers prove pioneering land-bridge is the perfect link between man and mammal

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE ingenious camouflaging of a bridge to fit in with its rural surroundings has been so convincing a family of rare dormice have set up home there.

The road to the Scotney Castle estate goes over the A21, near Tunbridge Wells, and drivers are often unaware they are travelling on a bridge at all.

It was built wider than necessary, and the extra space has been taken up with plantlife designed to blend in with the countryside.

Rangers and volunteers working on the National Trust's wildlife

conservation programme at the site spotted the tiny creatures and realised the experimental bridge had succeeded.

The female and her offspring have taken up residence on what is Britain's first wildlife land-bridge.

It was intended to provide a corridor between areas of woodland divided by the A21.

The pioneering design maintains a link across the dual carriageway between dormice communities and their habitat.

Planted along its length are trees and shrubs, so the bridge provides food and shelter for dormice that colonise the estate woodlands on either side.

Muscardinus avellanarius, more commonly known as the hazel dormouse, is an internationally protected species.

Formerly widespread throughout the UK, its numbers have dwindled as a result of loss of habitat and it is now at risk of extinction, save for a few remaining strongholds in the South East.

Ongoing management by the Trust at Scotney Castle has helped to maintain a well-established population on the estate.

Head ranger, Ross Wingfield said: "I think it's great that in such a short period of time the wildlife at Scotney Castle and its surroundings is comfortable using the land-bridge.

"This really is a major success. We have also seen on the bridge some deer, shrews and badgers."

Britain's foremost authority on dormice, Dr Pat Morris, said: "This is proof that making wildlife-friendly adjustments to bridges does actually work.

"Eight mammal species [including wood mice, common shrew and a tunnelling mole] now use it and the bridge also offers a tranquil and safe way for visitors to approach the Scotney Estate across a busy main road."



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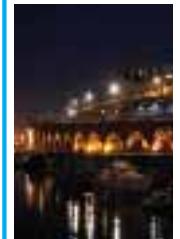
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## News

## ENTERTAINMENT

# Star-studded tribute to life of comic Dave Lee

By Marijke Cox  
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk



## HONOURING FUNNYMAN:

Dave Lee, far left, will be remembered during an evening of entertainment headlined by Joe Pasquale

BOBBY DAVRO AND JOE PASQUALE

have been confirmed as headliners for a special tribute show to celebrate the life of the late Dave Lee.

The comedian and panto star, from Canterbury, lost his battle with pancreatic cancer in January, aged 64.

Now pal Paul Hendy, producer and director of pantomimes at the Marlowe – where Dave performed more than 1,000 times – is organising a special show, Dave Lee – A Celebration, to mark the life of the roly-poly funnyman.

"The show will be a fitting tribute to Dave's wonderful career, reflecting the many different aspects of it – including music, stand-up comedy and, of course, panto," said Hendy.

"Lots of his pals have said they'd love to take part. It will be a great evening that Dave would have been proud of."

Hendy has invited some of

Dave's showbiz friends to take to the Marlowe stage on Sunday, May 6.

Davro and Pasquale have been confirmed as headliners.

Also appearing will be East-Enders' stars Shaun Williamson, John 'Nasty Nick' Altman and Emma Barton, as will songwriter Gerard Kenny.

Other performers are expected to be confirmed in the coming weeks.

Theatre chiefs confirmed there will be a special version of the comic's famous panto ghost bench routine, while 10 of the country's top panto dames will perform a special rendition of

There Is Nothing Like a Dame to remember Dave's memorable panto performances.

All money raised will go to Dave Lee's Happy Holidays Charity which raises money for Kent's sick and underprivileged children.

Dave's death shocked the county – with more than 1,000 people turning up to bid him an emotional farewell at a special memorial service at Canterbury Cathedral.

Tickets for the show, which starts at 7pm, are £35 and available from the box office on 01227 787787 or online at marlowetheatre.com.

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## News

## ARMED FORCES

# Ad inspires war veteran's return to Far East battlefield

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A PENSIONER is preparing for a trip to the Far East that will see him confront the horrors he experienced in World War Two.

William Mundy, from Dartford, was moved by a TV ad which recreated the Saving Private Ryan movie. It was promoting a project by the National Lottery which returns servicemen to their former postings, called Heroes Return.

It shows a pensioner in an Asian jungle witnessing the brutal attack that took his friends. As the ad ends, he is back in a huge military cemetery looking bewildered by the sheer horror he'd just recalled.

Realising facing those demons are sometimes beneficial, Mr Mundy will join the 51,000 ex-servicemen who have made a trip back to their own personal frontline.

For the 90-year-old, who was in the RAF, that means a trip to Jakarta, Indonesia.

Mr Mundy was just 20 when



**MEMORIES:** William Mundy, 90

he joined the RAF. He said: "I think most people would ask why on earth I would want to go back to where I had such a traumatic experience."

Mr Mundy, who was cap-

tured by the Japanese and amazingly survived being imprisoned in Java, added: "There are the war graves of the men that didn't survive and I would appreciate the opportunity to reflect on their sacrifice."

"I also especially want to visit the grave of a close friend, Eric Suter, who was one of the last to die before Ambon was evacuated."

Mr Mundy will travel with the Java Far East Prisoners of War veterans in September, and plans to take plenty of photographs as a record of his experiences.

He said: "I would like these to be able to give my children and grandchildren the knowledge of what happened."

Peter Wanless, Chairman of the National Lottery Forum, said the ad campaign stirred people's emotions.

He said: "It reminded us of the sacrifices that William Mundy and his comrades made for this nation. It brings home the importance of National Lottery funding to real lives."

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## News

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**CIRCLE OF FRIENDS:**  
2,012 young people formed a human chain during the 100-day countdown celebrations held at Cap Gris-Nez



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## Olympic spirit behind 2012 efforts to strengthen Kent-Calais relationship

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

WITH fewer than 100 days before the start of the Olympics, officials in Kent and Calais have come up with a series of youth events to celebrate the Games and strengthen Anglo-French relations.

The two regions already enjoy a close relationship, stemming from a common history and geographic proximity.

Plus there are many strong political and economic ties.

To mark last week's 100-day countdown there was a series of events at Cap Gris-Nez – the most northern point of the Calais region and closest to England – including 2,012 young people forming a human chain leading to a giant Olympic

torch, and 1,000 joined together in the shape of the Olympic rings.

And 30 boats set sail from Cap Gris-Nez, indicating the direction of London.

A group from Kent was present to join in the fun.

In the county, to mark the official arrival of the Olympic flame in Dover on July 18, Kent County Council is organising a street procession involving people from all over Kent.

To further strengthen the partnership, 12 French schoolchildren accompanied by a teacher will be invited to take part.

This event is part of Operation Torch, during which schoolchildren in Kent and Pas-de-Calais have already been creating their own torches symbolising the exchange, the wealth of the two

regions and the Olympic's values.

President of the General Council of the Pas-de-Calais, Dominique Duplet, said: "The Pas-de-Calais region offers exceptional accessibility to England. For this reason, the general council is offering exchange programmes, holidays and educational trips to encourage the learning of English.

"The goal is for every pupil to have the chance to visit England at least once during their school years.

"Our future is closely linked with its relationship to England. The Olympics are an opportunity, amongst others, to prove how close we really are."

And he added: "We want to make sure that all generations come together and make the most of this moment."

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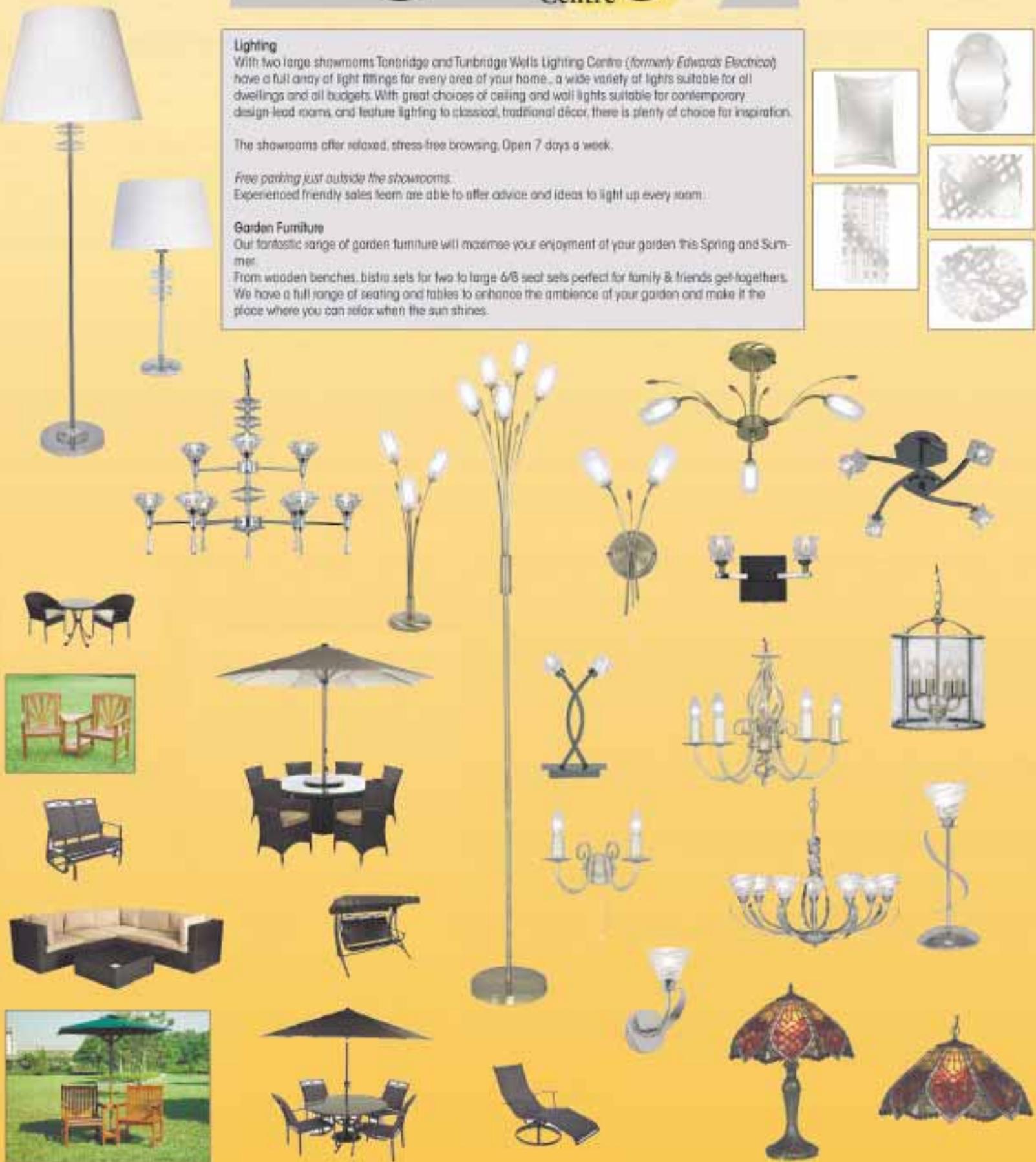
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POLICE

# Tories gear up for 'full time' police candidate battle

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

TWO Tories look set to go head-to-head in the battle to become the party's candidate in the poll to choose the first Police and Crime Commissioner.

Medway councillor and chair of the area's Community Safety Partnership Mike O'Brien has become the second Conservative to throw his hat into the ring, which could put him up against Iraq war hero Colonel Tim Collins.

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

will take over from Kent Police Authority in November. They will have the power to hold the force to account, determine policing strategy, set the budget and issue a five-year policing plan.

The salary is £85,000 and will be paid "irrespective of the number of days worked".

Clr O'Brien, who is cabinet member for community safety and enforcement at Medway Council, said while the selection process had not yet started, he hoped his experience would stand him in good stead to be chosen.

"This is an exciting year to serve the people of

Kent and Medway – this is one of the most dramatic changes in policing for years," he said.

"The police commissioner will be the driving force for our local policing priorities and I will ensure we deliver effective policing, punishment and financial prudence.

"As a full-time police commissioner I would push for a zero tolerance approach to reduce anti-social behaviour whilst ensuring we continue to have one of the lowest precepts in the country.

"We need a new community contract with the police so residents know what to expect from a 21st century police force, how our money is be-



**TORY CANDIDATE:**  
Councillor Mike O'Brien

ing spent, and how the police will respond to our concerns.

"Equally, we need to deliver more effective community punishment and I would work with the courts to speed up this process so that victims of crime can see swift and fair justice."

Asked what he thought of his rival Col Collins, Cllr O'Brien, from Rainham, said: "I'd like to think we're giving our colleagues a chance to pick someone who will be a committed, full-time police commissioner."

His comments about being a "full-time" commissioner will be seen as a dig at Col Collins, from Whitstable, famed for his inspirational eve-of-battle speech to troops in the Iraq War, announced last October that he wanted to be the Conservative candidate in the PCC election.

In January, the 51-year-old highlighted his desire to involve the public in the way the force is run as one of many things he would hope to achieve as PCC.

He said: "I believe very strongly that the people of Kent need to feel a greater degree of 'ownership' over their force, not in the sense of interfering with operational independence, but in having a bigger role in how it is run and how they're given information about what is being done and why."

But he later came under fire for saying he could do the post part-time.

Although the selection process of candidates had not yet taken place, other potential competitors include Fergus Wilson, who owns hundreds of properties in Kent; Kenneth Little, an independent candidate who lives near Whitstable; and Harriet Yeo, from Ashford, a councillor seeking the Labour Party nomination.

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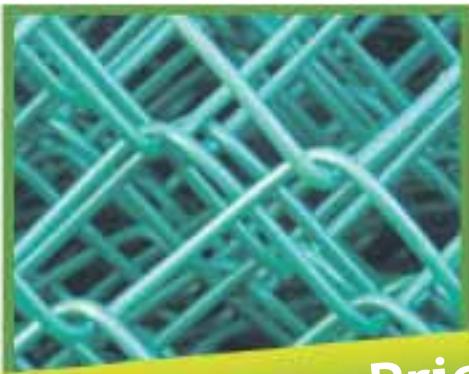
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## News

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## POLITICS

# A lifetime in politics gives teen platform for new role

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

DARA Farrell doesn't know if he's going to be Prime Minister one day, but if he does end up in Number 10 it will be because his youth club was closed down.

From the age of 11, Dara has been interested in politics after the loss of his local facility.

Now 18, the resident of Stanhope Estate in Ashford and a former chairman of the Kent Youth Council, is chairing a group of 11 young people on the new Youth Select Committee.

The body was launched earlier this month by the British Youth Council, and is supported by the House of Commons.

He is vice-chair of campaigns and communications at the council, and previously served as an elected member of Youth Parliament for Kent. He has even debated twice in the Commons.

Dara is studying for a joint honours degree in politics and sociology at the University of Kent, while also working as a part-time youth worker.

So politics is truly in his blood.

He said: "From my background I saw how some councillors took away amenities from young people, especially on Stanhope when the youth centre was shut down.

"From an early age I was going to meetings with adults and always had plenty to say. I would like a career in politics, but I don't really know how far I will get. All the way hopefully."

The Youth Select Committee mirrors the UK Parliament Select Committee structure and gives young people an opportunity to scrutinise and hold enquiries into topics they're interested in.

The group's first inquiry, in July, will look at public transport.

Dara said: "Presently many schoolchildren having to pay adult fares. I went to school from Ashford to Canterbury and it cost a fortune using public transport and paying adult prices. It is something that is just not right."

"Our recommendations will be going to the transport minister and they have to respond to us, so perhaps this is the first step to getting the fares standardised according to age, so families won't have to keep paying full fares."

On his involvement in the Youth Select Committee, Dara said: "This is a really exciting opportunity for young people to become more actively involved in Parliament – not just campaigning on the outside, but actively influencing decision making."

"Young people have chosen transport for the first inquiry with 65,000 voting it a priority, and endorsed by votes at the British Youth Council and UK Youth Parliament last year."

"It is clearly an important issue across the UK."

Commons speaker John Bercow said: "I am delighted to support this exciting new select committee project which empowers young people to examine the issues important to them and which highlights the power of politics to change things for the better."

Tim Loughton, Parliamentary under-secretary of state for children, said: "This Youth Select Committee is a great example of how we are positive for youth; listening to young people's views on issues that really matter to them. Central government is giving young people a voice."

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COMMONS TOUCH: Dara Farrell, 18, pictured with Tim Loughton MP and Baroness Royall

## COMPETITION

## Couple's cruise win at Travel and Leisure Show

A VISIT to a tourism event last month delivered a special surprise to one couple – after they scooped top prize in a draw to win a luxury cruise.

Jeffrey and Lyn Booth from Boxley won the star prize after attending the Travel and Leisure Show in Dover – organised by Archant KOS Media, publisher of this newspaper.

Now the lucky couple will be setting sail for Norway courtesy of Fred.Olsen Cruise Lines.

Sailing on the liner the Black Watch, they will travel to the North Cape on the Norwegian coast –

said to be the northernmost tip of Europe. As they journey towards the Arctic Circle, they will call at cities such as Bergen, Tromso and Trondheim.

Mrs Booth said: "Travel is our passion so this is a great prize. It was great to win, I'm 60 this year and this trip is the icing on the cake."

Mr Booth added: "We really enjoyed the show, it was informative with lots of great ideas for trips."

"Lyn asked me why I was entering the competition and all I said was 'someone has to win'. Well, we are both very glad I filled in the form."

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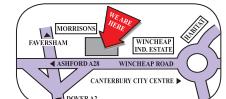
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## News

## WILDLIFE

# Felling begins in fight to stop devastating tree-eating bug

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AS THE fight continues to destroy an outbreak of the tree killing Asian longhorn beetle in Paddock Wood, the public have been praised for their help in seeing off the foreign invader.

The beetle is not a native of the UK and is believed to have stowed away on a lorry delivering products to a nearby business park.

If the beetle population takes hold, it could spell disaster for broadleaf trees in Kent and the rest of the UK. It burrows deep inside the trunk, lays its young which then eat their way back out, effectively killing the tree from the inside.

And they can spread very fast.

This week the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) and the Forestry Commission held a public meeting at the Hop Farm to outline what action they are taking and how the public can help.

So far, the experts know 22 trees in the area have been infested with the larvae of the beetle, with a further five highly likely to be infested, all in 80,000 sq m of woodland.

All the trees in this zone are being felled and will be pulverised in an effort to kill off the beetles before they spread.

As the felling started, John Morgan, head of

plant health at the Forestry Commission, said: "Scientists and inspectors from Fera and the Forestry Commission have now largely completed the initial survey work and are now overseeing the felling of both infested and non-infested host trees in the infested zone.

"We are grateful to local landowners and residents for their cooperation and help."

Residents in the area have already been told what's going on after leaflets were dropped through letterboxes. It also asked for public help in spotting infested trees. The meeting underlined this appeal around Paddock Wood and East Peckham.

The adult beetles are up to 40mm long with shiny black body and variable white markings. Their antennae are particularly distinctive, being almost twice as long as their bodies and are black with white/light blue bands.

Adult beetles usually emerge from 10mm circular exit holes in the main trunk and branches between May and October.

The experts ask anyone spotting one should capture it. They are harmless apart from an ability to nip.

If anyone suspects they have seen an Asian longhorn beetle, or evidence of its presence, contact Fera Plant Health Helpline on 0844 2480071 or email [planthealth.info@fera.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:planthealth.info@fera.gsi.gov.uk).



FATAL: Asian longhorn beetle

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## KENT REMEMBERED

# Slain saint is still a hero for today after 1,000 years

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THIS year marks the 1,000th anniversary of a Kentish saint who was beatified for refusing to bow down to rampaging Vikings.

St Alphege (or in Anglo-Saxon English – Aelfheah) was killed by the invaders after he refused to allow a ransom to be paid by the people of east Kent for his return from captivity.

The story of his martyrdom starts when Vikings, who had been raiding England for hundreds of years, launched an attack on London in 994.

They were beaten off but started to attack the less defended south coast and established a winter camp close to present-day Southampton.

But a peace deal was brokered by Alphege with King of Norway Aulaf Tryggersson, the leader of the invaders.

The Scandinavian ruler was already a Christian and had been baptised, but Alphege had him confirmed.

At the time Alphege was Bishop of Winchester – after first training as a monk and then living as a hermit – but had been appointed to talk to the Vikings by King Aethelred the Unready, who was aware of the bishop's diplomatic and mediation skills.

Aulaf vowed to never again take up arms against England and as a reward for his success Alphege was made Archbishop of Canterbury in 1006.

But the Vikings were not finished with him.

In 1011 the dragon-prowed long-ships were spotted off the coast of Kent and the invaders swarmed ashore under the command of Earl Thorkell and his brothers Heming and Eglaf.

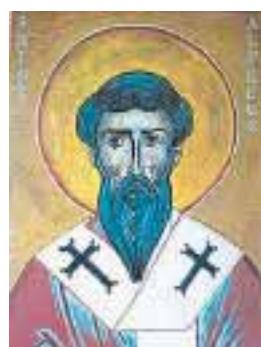
After a siege ended by the betrayal of Alfmarr Abbot of St Augustine's, Canterbury was looted. The cathedral was set on fire, many inhabitants were enslaved and Alphege was taken to the Viking camp at Greenwich as a prisoner.

The Vikings asked for £3,000 in ransom money from the people of Canterbury to get him released – but Alphege said no.

On April 19, 1012, at a drunken feast, a gang of Vikings, angry at his obstinacy, pelted Alphege with ox bones,



Picture: PAUL JERREAT



**COURAGE:** The Church of St Alphege is built on the site where the saint's body was left

and so the invaders relented. After initially being interred in London the body was transported down the River Thames and brought ashore at Whitstable on the way to Canterbury Cathedral, where he was finally buried.

He was made a saint in 1078 by Pope Gregory and his remembrance or feast day is April 19. Appropriately he is the patron saint of kidnap victims.

Alphege 1000 is the name of a group dedicated to celebrating his memory.

Their website states: "Alphege's story is inspirational to modern people even though it is a thousand years old.

"Today, brave men and women across the world are also facing oppression, occupation and violence. Anyone who stands up to such aggression deserves to be remembered and so in this sense Alphege is very much one of Kent's and the nation's heroes."

"Alphege 1000 is a year of celebration – remembering his story and being thankful. There will be a number of public events in 2012 – from activity days in Canterbury and Whitstable to colourful processions and projects for schools."

Among the events planned are tree planting, floral displays, church and cathedral services and this year's Whitstable Oyster festival will be dedicated to the memory of the saint.

■ **More news and sport at [www.yourcanterbury.co.uk](http://www.yourcanterbury.co.uk).**

## Lakeside's Spring/Summer Fashion Shows

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## OPINION

# County's work in progress

Returning Kent's economy to long-term growth means making a new deal between business and government, says KCC leader **Paul Carter**

THIS country has for too long relied on excessive national public expenditure. If the country is to return to growth, we will rely upon unlocking the ingenuity, innovation and investment of the private sector economies.

Many say this means that government needs to get out of the way – as Ronald Reagan said: “Government isn't the solution to the problem, it is the problem.”

This isn't my view. In the last few decades, Kent County Council has formed a beneficial relationship with business and local and national government – one that is delivering real benefits to the Kent economy.

On Friday, more than 300 business leaders packed Margate's Winter Gardens.

They were there to find out how their business can potentially benefit from the new £35 million Government-Regional Growth Fund. The Expansion East Kent programme

will offer interest-free loan finance to establish new businesses, to support existing business to grow and to encourage new business to locate in the districts of Thanet, Shepway, Dover and Canterbury (more at [www.kent.gov.uk/expansion](http://www.kent.gov.uk/expansion)).

This is just part of a programme of practical support for business growth.

In addition, £5m has been allocated to work with Network Rail to improve line speeds for high-speed trains from Ashford to Canterbury and Ramsgate – bringing Margate to within an hour of London.

Discovery Park, the Pfizer site at Sandwich, has been designated an Enterprise Zone, offering 100 per cent business rate discounts. All this investment has helped retain more than 800 jobs, with the prospect of more to come – the result of local government, national government, local MPs and local business working to-

gether to a shared objective.

Across the county, pragmatic and targeted public investment is creating new jobs.

For example, at Kings Hill, a joint venture between KCC and the private sector has transformed over two decades a redundant, bleak former RAF airfield in East Malling into one of the south's premier business parks, employing almost 6,000 people – and the county council has already netted £35m for the council taxpayers of Kent.

At Margate, public investment in the award-winning Turner Contemporary gallery has supported the creation of 35 businesses, attracting a new generation of visitors to the town. Through Locate in Kent, KCC's inward investment arm, we're attracting new investors in growing sectors, such as offshore renewable energy.

Business also needs a skills system that truly responds to commercial and business needs.

Earlier this month, I launched the Kent Employment Programme, offering financial support for small businesses taking on apprentices (more at [www.kent.gov.uk/apprentices](http://www.kent.gov.uk/apprentices)).

Attracting investment into Kent depends on putting the right infrastructure in place.

Securing a Lower Thames Crossing is vital for the long-term future of our economy and we are developing solutions to deliver the crossing at zero net cost to the public purse. More immediately, nearly £10m in Government investment, match funded by KCC, is being ploughed into the broadband infrastructure.

Of course, there are times when government needs to get out of the way. At a time when businesses face tough choices, we must cut red tape where it is impeding progress.

So we must maintain an honest dialogue with business to really understand the needs of Kent's wealth creators.

**6699**

We must  
cut red  
tape  
where  
it is  
impeding  
progress

## KOS COMMENT

A visit from Boris?  
Don't hold your breath

AFTER years of council leaders asking Boris Johnson to talk to them about the airport issue, the Mayor of London has finally said he will discuss the matter – but don't hold your breath.

If he's managed to avoid meeting them so far, it's unlikely he'll be rushing here any time soon, particularly as he remains adamant Kent has nothing to worry about as “there is no current plan in place”.

People in Cliffe are unlikely to believe that having already been though this once already. With the London mayoral election looming, it raises the question of whether the issue is just a political football. If so, it needs to stop so people can live without the uncertainty of a giant airport landing on their doorstep.

Forget the sunshine

WE WISHED for rain and that's what we've got, and while it's not particularly pleasant, it could go some way in helping us out of drought.

But it's going to take more than a week. So get on your wellies, suppress those hopes of sunshine, and – however alien it feels – just hope for more rain.

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## Feedback

## Letters/emails/twitter



## IMAGES OF KENT

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## It's time to can waste of water

WITH the hosepipe ban now in place and everyone under threat of heavy fines if caught using one, perhaps water companies and the Government should consider the following.

It is about time that foreign companies like Coca Cola and all the others that produce cola-style drinks were stopped or severely curtailed in their waste of our precious water in such drought-stricken times.

Coca Cola Enterprises website clearly states that 95 per cent of the four billion bottles and cans of Coca Cola products sold yearly in the UK are made here.

Many of those are the large two-litre variety, and it all adds up to a gross misuse of valuable water – and for what?

Visit any supermarket and clearly visible are the long aisles and mountainous piles of

rubbish drinks all made from water. Incidentally, I do know of people who consider Coca Cola to be the best lavatory cleaner on the market, so perhaps it has a use of sorts.

I have also heard we should not wash our cars and feel pride in having a dirty car to save water.

Will all the Coca Cola drinkers feel guilty about wasting water on such a rubbish product at this time?

**Roger Arnold, Herne Bay**

## No easy ride for motorists

READING your 'enthusiastic' article about the continuing subsidy by KCC of high-speed rail services did not enthuse me at all.

Nationally, rail companies receive about £5 billion in subsidies, but it seems this is not enough?

Drivers have £48bn extorted from them annually, of which only about £4bn is put back

into new or improved roads, with another couple of billion spent on maintenance, yet 92 per cent of passenger miles are by road.

High-speed rail seems to be carrying an almost minuscule amount of passengers, yet KCC continues to throw money at it, while drivers bounce from pothole to pothole.

**Terry Hudson, Herne Bay**

## Local issue is countrywide

EDWARD La Coste's letter last week is bang on target: local elections are about local issues – we don't need local representatives who are pale reflections of their Westminster brethren.

We need strong-minded independent councillors, not central office party hacks.

I've just had a short break in Herefordshire and the current edition of the local paper, the Herefordshire Times, contains letters about, "politicians who

forget they are elected to serve the people not be masters of them".

And, what about this: "Grand ego-boosting schemes pushed through at the cost of the taxpayer who didn't want them in the first place."

It's not encouraging to discover that, countrywide, local politicians seem to be stamped out of common moulds, probably marked: Arrogance V 1.0; Arrogance V1.1, etc.

In this regard, they are the strong reflection of their mates in London. We deserve better.

**Edward Baker, Tunbridge Wells**

## Autism has a place in work

I WANT to encourage our MP to support the National Autistic Society's (NAS) Undiscovered Workforce campaign to help adults with autism into employment.

The campaign is calling

upon MPs across the UK to work together with local authority services, as well as local businesses and employment providers, to improve job opportunities for people with autism.

For many, employment is a crucial factor in living a happy and independent life.

However, NAS research indicates only 15 per cent of adults with autism are in full-time employment, despite the fact that 79 per cent of those claiming out-of-work benefits told us they want to work.

Research with university leavers has shown that 26 per cent of graduates with autism are unemployed, by far the highest rate of any disability group.

One in 100 people living in Gravesend has autism so it is vital more is done locally to support these adults into work.

With the right support, people with autism can overcome the barriers to work that they often face.

I hope my MP will agree to

## ARCHANT KOS MEDIA...WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOUR VIEWS



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work with other organisations in our constituency so that adults with autism have access to the same employment opportunities as others.

**Kay Walsh, Gravesend**

## Archbishop's cross to bear

SO a new Archbishop of Canterbury has to be chosen out of the motley crew who have stood idly by while Christianity has become marginalised and Christians persecuted for their beliefs (News, April 22).

Just like the Scribes and Pharisees, they have preached another Jesus and 'swallowed camels while straining over gnats'. Agonising over trivia while Christ's real message is lost in a mish mash of nonsense.

Only Lord Carey has had the gumption to stand up for Christian values and is lobbying the European Court of Human Rights to get the same rights for Christians as are enjoyed by other religions, more protective of their beliefs.

Whoever is chosen, on present form the Coffe will continue its downward slide.

**Phil Granger, West Malling**

## Planning will end in litigation

THE Government's planning framework published last year sparked public outrage and was branded a 'developers' charter' by the National Trust.

We now have a revised version that still leaves a lot to be desired. In cutting 1,300 pages of planning regulations to just 50, vital countryside protections have been watered down or removed.

An unclear definition of 'sustainable development' could yet see a new building bonanza in the fields and green spaces of Kent.

At the very least we can expect litigation galore as developers and campaigners launch appeals to test the fuzzy definitions and loose wording in the new document.

We need a planning framework that focuses on brownfield development first and balances the need for new homes and economic growth against our treasured community green spaces.

**Peter Skinner, Member of the European Parliament for the South East of England**



Edited by **Adam Aiken**

## Gold dealer's coining it while seller is left short

**Q** IS there, or should there be, any difference in value between gold traded as coins and gold traded as bullion? I have gold sovereigns that have no rarity value.

According to the price of gold, they should be worth about £284 each, but the best price I have been offered is £230. I accept the dealer must make a profit, but the margin seems excessive.

**A** THERE will always be a difference between the buying price and the selling price, for sovereigns or anything else.

Try selling a car back to the dealer minutes after you have bought it, and see if he offers you anything like the price you paid.

That said, you should be able to do better than £230 apiece for your coins.

They move in line with the bullion price, less a discount that gives the dealer a profit. The bullion price has actually fallen a little since you wrote to me. It was £1,116 an ounce, and has now dropped to about £1,087. But despite this fall, there are dealers who are offering comfortably more than £230 for sovereigns.

For example, Gold Traders (0800 327 7878) guarantees a minimum of just under £239.

And dealer Malcolm Ellis (01428 685566) aims to pay the bullion price less just 1.5pc, and has recently been offering £251 for gold sovereigns. So don't settle for £230.

**Q** I KNOW an elderly lady who is paying direct debits for entries in Australian and Spanish lotteries. She will not believe this is illegal. Can you offer any advice please, as she can ill afford these payments?

**A** THERE are really two separate questions here. First, is it illegal to enter foreign lotteries? And secondly, is it sensible?

There is nothing to stop your friend from buying foreign lottery tickets.

Companies selling the tickets could technically be breaking the law, but in practice it is almost impossible to block sales over the internet or by phone.

However, my bet is that she is not actually buying lottery tickets.

There are foreign companies that buy a block of tickets and then market shares in that block of numbers.

For example: suppose I spend £1,000 on 1,000 lottery tickets, and then sell 5,000 shares in that block of numbers at £1 a share.

If a number comes up then my customers will win a one-fifth share of the prize. But meanwhile, I have turned my £1,000 into £5,000.

My customers could have spent their £1 on one ticket, but by giving their money to me, they have effectively bought just one fifth of a ticket. Tell your friend she is very unlikely to be

**TONY HETHERINGTON**  
MONEY CLINIC



getting value for money.

**Q** I AM thinking of entering the buy-to-let market, as I believe property prices are unlikely to fall further. However, the best mortgage I can find is only 70pc of the price. Do you know of any lenders who will advance more?

**A** NATWEST offers a buy-to-let loan of up to 75pc of the purchase price. Interest is variable, currently at 3.89pc. However, there is a fairly hefty arrangement fee of £1,999.

**Q** WE have a low interest fixed-rate mortgage. If our lender is taken over by another bank or building society, could the new owner charge higher interest?

**A** SEVERAL readers have asked this, probably because a company called The Mortgage Works – part of Nationwide – has taken over the mortgage business of the Bank of Ireland and is increasing interest rates even though the Bank of England base rate is unchanged.

However, only borrowers with variable rate loans are affected. If your lender is taken over, the new owner will have to respect the existing terms of your fixed-rate loan.

**Q** MY wife and I made a complaint to the Financial Ombudsman over the rejection of a motoring insurance claim. That was last September, but we seem to be no further forward. Is there anyone who investigates complaints against the ombudsman?

**A** THE ombudsman has a huge workload so I suggest you let her know that you are thinking of complaining.

But if you do want to go ahead, an outside official called the independent assessor does keep an eye of the ombudsman's service, and you can write to her at PO Box 35738, London E14 9YU, or by email to independent.assessor@financial-ombudsman.org.uk.

**■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.**

## Shop around for cover that's ideal pick-me-up

There is an increasing number of options for motorists looking for breakdown cover, as **ADAM AIKEN** reports

BREAKDOWN cover used to be provided by two or three main players, but there are many options on the market today.

So should you try out the smaller providers, or are you best sticking with the household names?

The service you get depends on what you are prepared to pay for it.

### What is included with your cover?

BREAKDOWN cover is a form of insurance – you are paying premiums in order to get help should something go wrong – and, as with other forms of insurance, there are varying levels of protection.

"It is important that you check the policy wording carefully before you buy so you know what level of cover you can expect to receive, and understand any exclusions," said Scott Kelly, at Gocompare.com.

"And keep an eye out for excess charges, in particular. Some cheaper policies include excess charges per call-out and so aren't as cheap as they seem."

Pete Harrison, at Moneysupermarket.com, said: "The most basic and cheapest of the policies in the market usually cover for roadside breakdowns in the UK, but only if you are a certain distance away from your home. It's recommended you opt for a policy to cover breakdowns at the roadside and at home."

"Those premiums are slightly higher, but bring greater peace of mind. You have to bear in mind how many people rely on their cars every day to get them to and from work and to do the school run and the shopping."

"Although taking out a breakdown policy may come to mind only when you plan a long journey, you never know when you may need it."

The most comprehensive policies offer further extras – most notably, onward travel.

"This covers you, your passengers and your vehicle, and means your breakdown provider will ensure you still make it to your chosen destination," said Mr Harrison.

Another inclusion is alternative accommodation if needed, and some breakdown providers offer a level of cover for parts and garage costs.

Mr Kelly said: "The more comprehensive the cover, the more expensive it is likely to be, so consider what you really need before you buy."

It is also important to note that some policies cover only one specific car, while others cover policyholders

### TOP TIPS

THERE are a few things to think about when you come to buy or renew breakdown cover.

As well as standalone products, there are other ways to take out cover, such as via a car insurance policy.

Scott Kelly, at Gocompare, said: "It's worth establishing whether you'd be better off buying breakdown as an added extra with your car insurance or separately."

And Miranda Schunke, a spokesman for Green Flag, said motorists with packaged bank accounts that included breakdown cover, or people who received cover via their car insurance policies, should check to see what they were getting for their money.

You should not think of this cover as a bonus or a freebie – you are paying for it through your insurance premiums or monthly bank account fees.

"You can always ask to see if the level of your breakdown cover can be increased, or if you can get a discount on what you are paying," she said. "You can still get different levels of cover with these policies, and if you can make a saving then it's got to be worthwhile."

Brand new vehicles are likely to come with a year's breakdown cover as standard. If this applies to you, not only will you not need to buy a standalone breakdown policy, but make sure you don't pay too much for an insurance policy that comes with bundled breakdown cover.

As with all insurance products, do not automatically renew with your existing provider without seeing if you can get a better deal elsewhere.

Many breakdown policies use auto-renewal, whereby premiums are taken from your bank account or credit card automatically unless you cancel the policy. Make sure you keep a note of the renewal date and have a look at the market a couple of weeks before then. That should give you plenty of time to cancel the auto-renewal if you decide to take your custom elsewhere.

Miss Schunke, at Green Flag, said motorists could also benefit by choosing risk-rated products.

Some policies are one-size-fits-all, but Miss Schunke said that drivers with new vehicles unlikely to break down should look for policies that reflected that lower risk.

irrespective of what cars they are in.

"Likewise, some policies require you to pay for any services you receive upfront, and then claim these expenses back," Mr Kelly said.

"These policies tend to be cheaper, but ask yourself whether the savings you'd make would be worth the inconvenience of having to fork out for towing, repairs and suchlike and then submitting receipts in order to get your money back."

### Should I stick with the big boys?

MILLIONS of motorists have been members of the AA or the RAC and have had peace of mind thanks to them.

Even a high-end policy costing £130 works out at only about 28p a day – not much for the security of knowing you are covered.

But analysts say you should not ignore other operators. The market is now much more competitive and you can get decent breakdown cover much more cheaply.

"There are a number of other providers in the market that offer comprehensive breakdown cover for a fraction of what the big players charge, so it really can pay off to shop around and get the level of cover you need at the best possible price," said Mr Harrison.

A fully-comprehensive annual AA policy, including roadside assistance, home-start and onward travel, costs £130. The equivalent policy with Green Flag costs less than £50.

For an even bigger saving, the Green Insurance Company charges less than £30 for its recovery policy.

"Don't be put off by lesser-known brands," said Mr Harrison.

"They tend to offer around the same call-out times as the bigger brands – for example, the Green Insurance Company states that its average call-out time is 40 minutes, just 10 minutes longer than the AA's 30 minutes."

"So it really can pay to shop around and get the level of cover you need at the best possible price."

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# Business Week

Your business is our business

## Joint venture could mean county grows UK's first seedless grapes

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A PIONEERING project is set to see seedless grapes grown in Britain for the first time as scientists look to give UK food-producers a share of a multi-million-pound market.

East Malling Research and supermarket giant Asda have launched the project to discover the feasibility of growing table grapes rather than relying on imported fruit.

It will be the first time that seedless grapes have been grown on British soil commercially.

UK shoppers buy £500 million of seedless grapes a year from more than 15 different countries worldwide, so it is an extremely lucrative market.

The grape-planting will see a number of different varieties – green, red and black – being grown at the site.

It is predicted that the vines, which have been imported from Spain, Italy and Greece, will be providing fruit as soon as two years' time and that the project will be commercially viable by 2016 as the vines mature and produce more crops.

The grapes will be harvested during the European grape season – from August to October – and will include



**PICK OF THE BUNCH:**  
Asda has joined East Malling Research in a pioneering attempt to grow seedless grapes on UK soil for the first time

both open-air production and vines under polytunnel.

The covered grapes should grow quicker and also have the potential of extending the season, meaning British grapes could soon be on Asda shelves for up to three months each year.

Although this is the first time seedless grapes have been grown in the UK, Kent is well known for its wine-production.

Its climate and soil have often been compared favourably to the French Champagne region and, with the effects of climate change, may soon be able to produce a wider range of more exotic

fruits such as apricots, kiwi fruit and melons.

Dr Chris Atkinson, head of science at East Malling Research, said: "We are delighted to undertake this table-grapes trial in partnership with Asda, which has clearly recognised our wealth of experience and expertise in the development and evaluation of novel crops.

"By trialling 10 varieties of table grapes at East Malling, EMR is now in a position to lead subsequent UK research and development of this fruit.

"It also offers us a fantastic opportunity for us to gauge how the South East is

being affected by climate change and to demonstrate how we can best adapt our growing habits in the region to continue to produce UK foods."

Tom Murray, Asda's grape technical manager, said: "This is an incredibly exciting project which we have been working on since 2007.

The thought of buying UK-grown seedless grapes may once have been unimaginable, but this project has the potential to revolutionise the grape market.

"We're really excited to watch the vines grow over the next couple of years and to start eating British grapes."

### PROPERTY

#### Property portals unite to make search easier

THREE of the top four property-finders in the country are to join forces.

Home-hunters will soon see the merger of the second, third and fourth largest property portals, Zoopla, FindaProperty and Primelocation.

The move creates a definitive number two in a marketplace currently led by Rightmove.

Martin Cunningham, commercial director of Archant Community Media's property portal homes24.co.uk, which is part of the Zoopla network, said: "The green light given by the Office Of Fair Trading paves the way for the creation of a UK-leading marketplace of residential property, delivering consumers the very best choice of homes to buy or rent."

It is anticipated the merger will complete at the end of May, after which it is expected the new combined business shall work to aggregate the property content into a single marketplace.

Cunningham said: "Zoopla's technology provides a range of moving tools, available at homes24.co.uk. One, called HomeValues, offers homeowners the ability to get, free of charge, a desktop estimate of value of their property.

"The site also offers a forum in which buyers, sellers, landlords and tenants can post questions to be answered by property professionals."

### RELOCATION

#### Investment agency helps company expansion plans and increase staff

A HOVERCRAFT-maker is looking to make more waves in the leisure and sport industries after relocating and expanding the business.

Flying Fish, which specialises in testing, developing and building a range of 'sports-cruiser' light hovercraft, has moved to premises in Sandwich and taken on four more members of staff.

The new Flying Fish factory and the company's 11-strong team is capable of building 100 wave-skimming machines a year – double that of the previous site in Dover.

Director Emma Pullen said: "The business is well placed to further increase production on its Sandwich site, found with assistance from investment agency Locate in Kent.

"We are delighted to have expanded our workforce and

doubled productivity, but there is much more to come.

"We can now produce more and have additional space to further expand operations in the future. We would like to thank Locate in Kent for their support, both in terms of helping us search for the perfect premises and also acting as a middleman during negotiations."

Paul Wooley, chief executive at Locate in Kent, said: "It is often the case that successful SMEs such as Flying Fish Hovercraft need to relocate to expand the business and we are more than happy to offer assistance in the search for a new site.

"We can help companies looking to move find a new premises. Through offering this service we can deliver growth and bring thousands of new jobs into the county."

### ANALYSIS

#### Figures on the up but confidence stays low

BUSINESS confidence remains low in the region despite encouraging figures for company turnover, growth and productivity.

The latest UK Business Confidence Monitor with the Confidence Index now stands at -7.4.

This is well below a high of +29.8 seen in Q2 of 2010 and reflects the region's concerns over global economic conditions and the Eurozone crisis.

The study is carried out by accountancy group ICAEW/Grant Thornton.

The rate of export growth reported by firms in the South East has been slowing since mid-2011. This quarter they report expansion of 2.7 per cent over the last 12 months, down from 4.8 per cent in the 12 months to Q3 2011.

Slowing export growth will have an impact both on the region's local economy and the UK as a whole as goods exports in the South East are equivalent to almost a quarter of the regional economy, while 14.9 per cent of all UK goods exports come from the region.

Despite this, firms in the South East have maintained a stable rate of growth throughout 2011. Furthermore, firms expect the rate of growth in turnover, profits and sales to pick up over the coming year.

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## NEW START

## Support for your launch

HELPING new businesses to establish themselves and grow as quickly as possible is the philosophy behind a new initiative developed by Kent Science Park in partnership with Locate in Kent.

Building on the already strong partnership between the science park and the county's investment promotion agency Locate in Kent, LaunchPad is designed to help attract new companies to the county, create jobs and safeguard existing ones, as well as provide a home for the growth of local businesses.

James Speck, site director of Kent Science Park, said: "LaunchPad is timely as there is renewed interest in start-up businesses.

"As the recession has hit hard, many skilled people who have unfortunately found themselves being made redundant have increasingly looked to put their skills and redundancy cheques to good work and take charge of their own destiny."

The park has made a significant investment in the initiative by refurbishing 11,000 sq ft of commercial property and creating the LaunchPad Innovation offices and laboratories.

Speck said: "Importantly, LaunchPad combines this entrepreneurial spirit with the crucial elements for business success, namely access to a wide range of expert professional advice at an early stage, together with flexible business accommodation in the form of offices or laboratories."

The aim of LaunchPad is to help companies relocating to the park to quickly develop quality links with local professional advisers and like-minded businesses and ensure the county reaps the maximum reward from the new arrival.

Richard Wheeler, business development director at Kent Science Park, said: "Connecting business people with expert advisers, and helping new tenants at the park to realise their full commercial potential, is at the heart of LaunchPad. The winners will be the individual businesses, as well as the Kent economy."

"The park also has longstanding relations with many universities across London, Kent, the UK and overseas in Europe, and new arrivals can quickly link into these networks."

In developing LaunchPad, Kent Science Park has worked with Locate in Kent and a number of its commercial partners.

## AWARD

## International network win

KRESTON International, the parent company of Kent accountancy and business advisory company Reeves, has won the International Accounting Bulletin's Rising Star Network Award.

Chatham and Canterbury-based Reeves is one of the longest-serving members of Kreston International, a global network of independent accountancy firms and business advisers. It ranks in the top 15 largest accounting networks in the world, covers more than 95 countries and has more than 600 offices providing a resource of more than 19,000 professional and support staff.

The awards, sponsored by global insurance broker Aon, attracted more than 100 international nominations.

Kreston was shown to have demonstrated exceptional growth, ambition and innovation to elevate its position in the market.

At the ceremony, IAB editor Arvind Hickman said: "Kreston posted solid growth of 5 per cent, but what really impressed judges is their successful transition from an association to a network. This is a massive undertaking, and Kreston and its global membership was recently welcomed to the Forum Of Firms for its efforts."

Clive Stevens, managing partner at Reeves and chairman of Kreston International, said: "I am delighted Kreston has been recognised in this way. Winning this award strengthens the importance of international connections."

# EU regulations slammed as 'wine' has to be given away

By Nick Ames

[nick.ames@archant.co.uk](mailto:nick.ames@archant.co.uk)

COMPLEX European Union regulations should be watered down in the light of Chapel Down's recent red-wine red-tape headache, according to food specialist Vertex Law.

The Tenterden winery's plans to sell a vintage made from Argentinian Malbec grapes fell foul of EU legislation – meaning it now has to give the bottles to regular customers and shareholders.

Restrictive regulations even prevented Chapel Down from using the terms 'wine' and 'Malbec' on the labelling: they were slammed as "complete nonsense" by its chief executive Frazer Thompson.

The award-winning winery has been forced to mark its new Anglo-Argentinian drink as a "fruit-based alcoholic beverage".

Chapel Down representatives created 1,200 bottles of the world's first cross-border wine after staff visited the vineyard in Mendoza, which lies 3,500 ft above sea level, and chose the grapes they wanted harvested, which had to be flown to the UK within five days to keep them fresh.

But plans to sell the vintage were thwarted by EU Food Standards regulations, which prohibit wine being sold if it is made from imported grapes.

Kate Mayor, commercial lawyer at Kings Hill-based Vertex Law, said: "Sadly, by importing the grapes from Argentina and making the wine here, Chapel Down fell foul of the regulation which does not allow grapes produced outside of the EU to be made into wine within the EU."

"It seems ludicrous that a law designed to protect has had the opposite effect, particularly where the intention appears to be only to forge strong cross-border relations and not flood the market with a cheap wine at the expense of other EU producers. Perhaps it would be helpful for there to be a way of carving out such ventures from the legislation."



**TIME FOR CHANGE:**  
Kate Mayor of Vertex Law says the red tape disallowing the sale of Chapel Down's latest creation needs to be changed

And the wines cannot be sold at all, according to the rules. Instead the bottles are being sent as a free gift to shareholders and to customers ordering other products.

Thompson said: "The legislation is complete nonsense."

"It is stifling innovation. Our staff had a fantastic learning journey when they went to Argentina, showing how people who are passionate about creating something new can work together."

Mayor added: "Chapel Down's Malbec mishap came about as a result of EU Single Common Marketplace Organisation Regulation No 1234/2007, which sets out the rules on the production of wine either made in the EU or imported into the EU."

"This legislation aims to protect the EU wine sector by ensuring European wine-producers are not pushed out of the market in the face of rising commercial pressure from imported wines from across the world."

"It provides protection for designations of origin, requires that wine is produced and conserved according with EU laws, and makes it a requirement that wine

imported into the EU is sold according to agreed international standards.

Andrew Maidment, European manager of trade group Wines Of Argentina, said: "The wine industry is all about collaboration, but nothing like this has ever been done before."

"When I approached the British wine-makers, they said 'It sounds completely crazy, but we'll give it a go'."

"It's something unique, which makes it very exciting. It was also a big risk as we didn't know what was going to happen with it – whether it would be a fantastic bottle or whether it would be undrinkable."

"It was very important that, while the grapes came from Argentina, this wine wasn't made by Argentina. It was produced completely by the British vineyard, with no one telling them what to do."

"It's a bit of a madcap idea, but it worked as a celebration of the two industries working together."

"It wasn't conceived with anything political in mind, but in the current climate I think everyone would be happier to have people making wine than making war."

## Arabian deal smells good to manufacturer

CANTERBURY-based Claremont & May Fragrance & Home has signed an investment deal with Al Safa Group of Saudi Arabia.

The company is celebrating 21 years of manufacturing home-fragrance products, which are sold worldwide.

The range includes pot

pourri, room sprays, fragrance oils and fragrance-oil diffusers.

Managing director Sultan Khan said: "Claremont & May products have always been in great demand, but in these tough economic times it has been difficult and expensive to obtain traditional lines of funding to grow the company."

"So we are excited to have secured an overseas investor from the Middle East, which not only gives us the opportunity to satisfy demand but expand our portfolio. This will create jobs as all our products are made here in the UK."

Al Safa Group has more than 300 stores across the Middle East.

## Travel company goes international in take-over

CT Business Travel has announced its purchase of Medway Travel Limited, based in Maidstone.

The company is a member of Uniglobe, which promotes excellence throughout the travel business.

Mark Kempster, CT Business Travel managing director, said: "Synergies between the two organisations were obvious and we felt that adding the

Uniglobe offering to Medway Travel's business and it becoming an international travel-management company would further enhance its client proposition.

"Medway Travel will continue to operate under the same brand which it has done for the past 18 years. All staff jobs are safe and its Maidstone office will also remain, which is fantastic news and a win-win for all."

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## Training, courses and careers

### Adult ed moves into new venues

MORE adult education classes in community venues will be offered to Medway learners from September.

The news follows the decision taken by Medway Council's cabinet members to close Green Street adult education centre.

Councillors decided the building was no longer fit for purpose due to its age, layout and general lack of facilities that are expected by today's learners.

From the start of new academic year, arrangements have been made for classes to be held elsewhere throughout Gillingham and the wider Medway area.

Daytime classes for adults with learning disabilities will take place at the Sunlight Centre, while evening classes for those with learning difficulties will take place at Rainham School for Girls.

Training for people who work in the fitness industry will take place at Medway Park, and greater use will be made of Woodlands School community centre.

Evening classes that would have been at Green Street will be transferred to Chatham Grammar School for Boys, Strood Academy, Hundred of Hoo, and Rainham School for Girls.

All other classes will be held at the Rochester Centre.

### Youngsters urged to use new service

YOUNG people are being encouraged by a Kent MP to use a new careers service launched by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills.

The National Careers Service combines face-to-face local advice with a new interactive website, which can be seen at <https://nationalcareerservice.direct.gov.uk>.

Sittingbourne and Sheppey Tory MP Gordon Henderson said: "Sittingbourne and Sheppey has approximately 3,200 unemployed people, many of whom do not yet know which career path they would like to take, or they are struggling to meet the criteria set by employers so access to local advice would prove invaluable to them in helping to find and achieve their potential."

Officials say it is expected the new service will provide information and advice through the helpline and website; offer face to face advice; provide detailed sector-by-sector labour market information; provide tools such as a CV builder and Skills Health Check; and provide information on skills, careers and financial support.

More information at <http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/further-education-skills/docs/n/12-677-national-careers-service-right-advice-right-time.pdf>.

# Garden centre planning new crop of apprentices

IT'S not only large corporations and local authorities that can help train the next generation of skilled workers, smaller businesses can play their part as well.

The latest example is Tunbridge Wells Garden Centre, which has broken new ground for the industry and launched an apprenticeship programme.

The garden centre in Eridge Road is offering the scheme to people aged 16 and above.

Manager Chris Dartnell, explained: "We are delighted to be launching an apprenticeship programme at the garden centre.

"The scheme is the first of its kind for the horticultural industry and is a great opportunity for people to gain employment, particularly during the current economic climate.

**What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817136.**

"The apprenticeship will combine a blended learning approach with full integration into the garden centre.

"Knowledge-based learning will be accessed online, while college-based classes, which will take place at selected horticultural colleges, will develop the apprentices' practical skills.

"These will then be put into practice in the workplace.

"We are recruiting individuals for our July to September intake. The closing date for registrations is Tuesday, July 31, 2012."

All the garden centre's apprentices who successfully complete the programme will

receive a work-based Diploma in Horticulture.

The 12-month programme includes an apprenticeship wage, which is dependant on a candidate's age. A 'celebration bonus' of £500 will also be paid to those who complete the scheme.

After 12 months, higher level apprenticeships, linked to the management development strategy of the garden centre, will be available to successful candidates, subject to application.

Mr Dartnell added: "There are excellent career benefits for people who do an apprenticeship as they can combine the experience of working with gaining qualifications.

"Apprentices learn on the job, building up knowledge and skills, gaining qualifications and earning money all at the same time."

Tunbridge Wells Garden Centre is looking for individuals who have an interest in horticulture and have the following core values: courtesy and dedication to customer service; leadership; commercial thinking; team spirit; the ability to work with others; commitment; and flexibility.

To register for an apprenticeship scheme with Tunbridge Wells Garden Centre, email [apprenticeships@thegardencentregroup.co.uk](mailto:apprenticeships@thegardencentregroup.co.uk) for an application form.

For more information call 01892 515 234 or visit [www.tunbridgewellsgardencentre.co.uk](http://www.tunbridgewellsgardencentre.co.uk).



**DIGGING FOR GOLD:** You could be an apprentice at Tunbridge Wells Garden Centre

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## Schools & education

### Veterinary nursing laboratory nominated for top design award

CANTERBURY College's new veterinary nursing laboratory has been nominated for a top design award.

The state-of-the-art lab is in the running to win an S-Lab award for laboratory design.

The awarding body was impressed by its top-range facilities that include a mock surgical theatre, X-ray machinery, an incubator and anaesthetic and radiography training areas.

The design allows veterinary nursing and animal manage-

ment students to experience the conditions of working in a practicing veterinary lab.

They learn about animal anatomy and physiology, behaviour and handling techniques.

The lab is part of the new multi-million pound A-Block building that opened at the New Dover Road campus in January.

Alan Carver, Canterbury College's capital projects manager, said: "We're proud to be shortlisted for the award be-

cause it recognises the hard work that went into making this a first-class teaching facility. We worked closely with our veterinary nursing and animal care staff who all have industry experience, throughout the design process."

Canterbury College is one of only five colleges and schools in the UK to be shortlisted for the S-Lab award in its category. The awards are judged by industry experts, with the winners announced in June.

### Pupil flicks to win an iPad in marketing makeover competition

CREATIVE artwork from a group of Broadstairs students is being used to help market the relaunch of the Humbrol paints brand.

The colourful range of images and installations were the result of design brief from Margate-based Hornby Hobbies, which gave Year 10 students at the Charles Dickens School free rein to give the traditional product a marketing makeover.

Designs using Hornby rail track, model cars and trains, Airfix kits parts, and more, resulted in a range of ideas including a tornado, Van Gogh, Elvis Presley, Thomas the Tank Engine, the Golden Gate bridge, an autumn tree, flowers and bees, a shipwreck, a roller coaster, a Spitfire, a multi-coloured brolly, and guitars.

Hornby chief executive Frank Martin selected a simple yet strong image by visually impaired student Matthew Baldwin based around a piece of Banksy artwork.

The 15-year-old won an iPad, and said: "I always remember how much of an impression the Banksy image made on me the first time I saw it and it really stuck in my mind. It was hard work doing a cut out stencil as part of the project, and then I



**PAINTED:** Matthew Baldwin's winning design

flicked a range of Humbrol paint colours across and around it in layers of spray. Mr Martin said the image really grabbed him."

Headteacher Andrew Olsson said: "It has been fantastic for our art students to be involved in a real-world business project that has given them inspirational learning.

"We are so proud of the results, we have created walk plinths and mounted some of the most striking designs in our school cafeteria area."

### 'Satisfying' survey finds college's former students in jobs or education

A SURVEY of former MidKent College students shows a high proportion progress to higher education or employment in the year after their course ends.

The 'student destinations' report – for which the college contacted nearly 2,000 people – revealed that 86 per cent of those who left in July, 2011, have either gone on to university or are currently in employment.

And five per cent returned to

the college for more studies.

Under the previous Government's quality guidelines, which have now been withdrawn, MidKent College says it would have been graded "outstanding" for the overall findings of the survey.

The 91 per cent total figure is also an increase of three per cent on the previous year.

Assistant principal Alan Ashfield said: "At a time of high unemployment it's extremely satisfying to see so many of our

students progressing into jobs or higher education.

"People study at MidKent College because they want to receive the best possible education, and these high figures demonstrate that is exactly what they are getting."

"We do our best to keep in contact with our former students, so we know they often move onto some pretty impressive things."

Visit [www.midkent.ac.uk](http://www.midkent.ac.uk) for more information.

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# KENT'S BIG GREEN BUSINESSES

## AWARDS

# Double recognition for eco-friendly firm

**A**N Ashford business leader has been short-listed in two categories of the region's most prestigious business awards – the Institute of Directors' London And South East Director Of The Year, sponsored by accountancy PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Sonja Wood, director of EcoSan Services, has been short-listed in the category for director of the year for a business up to £4.99 million and for new business director of the year. She is the only female director and the only one from Kent to reach the finals of this year's awards.

EcoSan offers eco-friendly washroom solutions to businesses in every sector. It was the first southern business to offer sanitary, nappy and incontinence recycling and recently recorded another first by recycling chewing gum.

Wood said: "I'm absolutely delighted to be recognised for my efforts to help reduce our carbon footprint. I'm passionate about the environment and have created a company that lives and breathes green values. I'm incredibly proud of EcoSan's achievements in recycling 75 tonnes of waste a year."

EcoSan was winner in the business commitment to the environment category at the 2011 Kent Excellence in Business Awards and Wood was



nominated as a 2011 finalist in the entrepreneur of the year category.

Wood said: "I have strived to deliver consistent growth and identified new opportunities to recycle waste, continuing to set and achieve ambitious targets."

Rodger Broad, director for the IoD in

the South East, said: "These annual awards recognise the hard work, inspiration and management skills of business leaders in a wide variety of sectors.

"We are pleased and encouraged that we had 250 directors being put forward this year, despite these challenging economic times.

From these we had more than 100 entries to consider for the awards. That means the finalists have already survived a painstaking selection process."

Andrew Latham, head of PricewaterhouseCoopers' private business practice in the South East, said: "During these tough economic

times the importance of dynamic and strong leadership has never been more important.

"PwC are delighted to support an event that celebrates the success of those directors in London and the South East who have differentiated their companies in the marketplace in such a positive and inspiring manner."

## SOLAR PANELS

# Cricket club harnesses the sun's power

**SHERWOOD** Cricket Club in Rochester has installed 28 solar panels with the help of solar-energy company Freetricity.

The club has decided to go green as part of its programme to become more energy-efficient.

Chairman Tony Rossiter said: "The installation of solar panels from Freetricity is the first step for the club to use renewable-energy sources.

"With the cost of electricity, gas and water increasing, it is vital that we look at the longer-term benefits of renewable energy and alternative sources for our energy and water usage in addition to reducing our club's carbon footprint."

Dave Compton, sales and marketing director at Freetricity, said: "We are delighted to have supplied and installed a solar PV system at Sherwood.

"They are the first cricket club in Kent to have the benefit of a Freetricity solar system and we look forward to working with them to gain the full benefits from this."

Peter Robinson, director of Kent Cricket Board and head of the Kent Groundsmen Association, said: "Cricket



**THE GREEN TEAM:** Sherwood Cricket Club is now home to 28 solar panels

clubs play a key part in sustaining the green agenda.

"Hectare for hectare, turf grass will sequester more carbon into the soil each year than the same area of woodland.

"The maintenance regime operated by cricket clubs on its

playing surfaces is vital to the annual oxygen production and carbon dioxide fixation.

"A healthy grass sward is vital to carbon sequestration – the process of removing carbon from the atmosphere and depositing it in the soil reservoir."

## HEATING

# Springboard funding enables development of 'mole' drill

A FAVERSHAM business with an innovative idea to tackle climate change has won a £40,000 Shell Springboard award.

Geo-Mole Ltd received the financial boost for its device to simplify and cut the cost of installing underground heat pumps.

Shell Springboard is a UK Social Investment programme, which provides a financial boost to small and medium enterprises with innovative, low-carbon business ideas. The awards build on Shell's overall commitment to help the UK meet its future energy needs responsibly.

Geo-thermal heating and hot water is one of the most effective forms of renewable energy, using the heat that is produced naturally beneath the Earth's core to heat homes and businesses. However, uptake is limited due to the large machinery currently needed to install the technology.

Geo-Mole Ltd's product changes this by eliminating the need for drilling rigs thanks to a small pneumatic mole that displaces soil. The mole allows pipes to be put into the earth at the desired depth and connected to a ground-source heat pump.

Mark Brice, director of Geo-Mole, said: "Geo-thermal heating is a brilliant

source of renewable energy but inaccessible to lots of home-owners because of the huge drilling technology that is currently used. Our small pneumatic mole removes the need for this, meaning that even homes with restricted space, such as mid-terrace houses in cities, can have access to geo-thermal for the first time.

"It's incredibly rewarding that such a prestigious programme as Shell Springboard has recognised the potential of Geo-Mole, and the funding will allow us to continue to develop our business."

John MacArthur, of Shell, said: "Through Springboard, Shell aims to encourage others to innovate as well, helping to support the transition to a lower-carbon economy and seizing this new market opportunity."

"It's our belief that the innovative services and technologies that small businesses provide can make an important contribution to reducing the UK's carbon emissions. I congratulate Geo-Mole on their success and wish all of our finalists the very best."

Since its launch in 2005, Shell Springboard has judged more than 1,000 entries and awarded some £2 million to 52 businesses across the country.



## KENT'S FINEST

PILGRIMS CORNER FOSTERING

# Putting children first means giving you up-to-date training

**P**ILGRIMS Corner Fostering is a relatively new agency in the world of fostering. However, its creators and staff are all former foster-carers. This means the directors and managers can all share their experiences of looking after some of the most vulnerable children in our society with those families who decide that they would like to work with us.

Lyn Norman and Sarah Curry own and operate the agency, with Harry Deering as operations manager. All three have been foster-carers and therefore fully understand the processes, thoughts, feelings and excitement a family can experience when offered their very first placement.

Lyn, Sarah and Harry always give plenty of support at this stage.

The role of foster-carer is one of the most rewarding careers there is. To see a young person grow and flourish by being placed in your family and being treated as one of your own is wonderful.

As a company we are lucky to have some truly exceptional families who have knowledge, experience and compassion and are driven to help their young people move forwards with their lives in a good and positive way.

Our families provide loving and caring environments in which the foster-family integrate the child into the family as if they were one of their birth children. We are



looking to expand our business by recruiting more carers this year. If you think this is for you, give us a call – we'd love to hear from you.

The agency has regular support meetings at which carers can meet and discuss their experiences; this is invaluable as you can ask questions of families who may have more, or maybe different, experiences to you. There is also

24-hour support for all families if needed and plenty of high-quality training on offer.

Our agency ploughs most of its income back into training carers, ensuring our children are given high-quality care and that they have the opportunities to undertake activities that they enjoy.

Our services are monitored by

progress, which is mapped by our Ofsted reports and the grades we earn.

Our organisation has robust measures in place to recruit new staff and carers. We are actively seeking to do this in 2012 and encourage you to call to arrange for us to come and see you to discuss the possibility of becoming a foster-carer with us.

VISIT KENT

## Celebrations as partnership marks 10 years

VISIT Kent started a year of celebrations marking its 10th anniversary with the cutting of a celebratory cake at Kent 2020 Live.

The public-and-private partnership was launched in 2002 to promote the county as a tourism destination.

"In the last 10 years, the face of tourism in Kent has changed beyond all recognition," said Sandra Matthews-Marsh, chief executive.

"Our historic buildings, such as Leeds and Dover castles and the cathedrals at Canterbury and Rochester, are enduring, but today you can look around the county and add to them modern, world-class tourist attractions such as the Turner Contemporary at Margate and the No 1 Smithery at the Historic Dockyard, Chatham."

"Their development has been mirrored by a growth in boutique hotels and restaurants using local produce."

"The last 10 years has also seen a massive improvement in transport links to the county, including High Speed 1, making it easier for people to reach us and so leading to an increase



in visitors. This saw tourism's economic impact on the local economy rise by 33 per cent between 2003 and 2009."

Visit Kent has built a reputation for innovation in the past decade with events such as the hugely-popular My Kent Big Weekend, which is now being studied by other visitor destinations around the country.

"Visit Kent has been an enormous success in the 10 years it has been in existence," said Alex King, deputy leader of Kent County Council. "The drive and vision shown by all of the team

has seen tourism make an increasingly-important contribution to the county's economy."

"Visit Kent-inspired events such as My Kent Big Weekend and campaigns such as the Kent Contemporary series of advertisements have helped to raise the profile of Kent's attractions, both man-made and natural, and position the county as one of the leading destinations in the UK."

"Kent can be proud of its tourism industry, which only looks set to grow and prosper thanks to the continued efforts of Visit Kent."

Matthews-Marsh said: "We are proud of the work we have done and the progress we have made in the last 10 years, and are delighted that our anniversary falls in such an exciting year, with the Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympics offering a wealth of opportunities for tourism businesses in the county."

"We intend to mark this important year in our history with a number of events to thank those who have supported us since our launch, and who we know will continue to support us in the future."

B2B CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

## Chamber event will include key skills workshops

ONE of Kent's biggest business conferences and exhibitions will get a new look this summer, and for the first time it will include workshops offering a range of free advice.

The Kent and Medway B2B Conference and Exhibition at the Ashford International Hotel on Tuesday, July 3, is being organised by Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce.

"This year we are giving the event a radical overhaul based on what businesses have told us they want to see at the event", said Jo James, chief executive of Kent Invicta Chamber.

"This will be the one-stop shop for long-established, new and prospective businesses. As well as the usual networking opportunities, this will give the chance to learn from experts and take part in key skills workshops."

For the first time the exhibition will have business advice and start-up zones offering free advice on a range of topics including how to raise finance, international markets, personnel and staff development, innovation and sales. There are sponsorship opportunities for anyone wanting to put their brand on these specialist areas.

The start-up zone is specifically aimed at companies in their first year of trading and anyone who's thinking of setting up a business.

The day will begin with a networking breakfast, and more than 120 businesses are expected to exhibit in the conference area.

The specialist workshops will run throughout the day and there will also be a chance to talk to business leaders about their experiences.

"Kent businesses are doing well in some very tough times, but this is designed to help them do even better," said Ms James.

Businesses can find out more by emailing bookings@kentinvictachamber.co.uk or phoning 01622 232707.



BEST DESTINATION EXPERIENCE

## International win

DOVER Cruise Port and Visit Kent have jointly won the prestigious Cruise Insight award for Best Destination Experience (Organised Tours) 2011.

The awards were announced and presented during the Cruise Shipping Convention in Miami, US, where the two organisations exhibit in the Cruise Britain pavilion.

Kate O'Hara, head of business delivery at Port of Dover, said: "The partnership between Dover Cruise Port and Visit Kent has been extremely successful in promoting the wealth and variety of attractions and themes over the years."

"As a result the joint venture has seen an increase in the number of cruise calls to Dover Cruise Port."

"The award demonstrates the commitment to deliver high levels of customer service and wonderful experiences that passengers continue to enjoy during their stay in Kent."



## TO ADVERTISE:

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### Is this the job for you?

ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, high-quality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities. Due to our continued growth we now require the following staff to complement our team at our home in

CHILHAM

### Senior Support Worker

Salary from £15,250

For an application pack please visit our website at [www.achuk.com](http://www.achuk.com).

Alternatively e-mail [joan.williams@achuk.com](mailto:joan.williams@achuk.com) or contact Human Resources 020 8502 8841



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kentnews  
.co.uk**

### Purchasing Administrator

Due to continued expansion a market-leading supplier to the garden centre trade now requires a purchasing administrator to join its team.

Reporting to the commercial manager, the role will involve:

- Raising and administration of purchase orders.
- Regular contact with our foreign suppliers to ensure timely delivery of orders.
- Creating, updating and interpreting buying plans and analysing sales trends.
- Arranging import documentation, coordinating container deliveries and receipt of stock.

This is an excellent opportunity to join an ambitious, innovative and rewarding company at a time of sustained growth. The successful candidate will be expected to show an interest in all aspects of the business, and be flexible enough to assist in other areas, including sales and marketing, as required. Excellent prospects exist for progression within the company.

Clear communication and accurate statistical work are vital and the role therefore demands exemplary literacy and numeracy levels. Experience of Excel, Word and Outlook preferred but not essential. An enquiring mind, a willingness to learn and a spark of creativity will also be advantageous.

Starting salary £20,000 plus bonus, with regular reviews.

Written applications in the first instance, enclosing CV and details of current salary, to:

James Hoad  
Apta, Dencora Way, Leacon Road,  
Fairwood Business Park  
Ashford, Kent TN23 4FH  
[james.hoad@apta.co.uk](mailto:james.hoad@apta.co.uk)

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### Community & Planning Services Department

#### Sevenoaks Direct Services

Sevenoaks Direct Services is proud to have high standards in collection of refuse, recycling and street cleaning services and the following job opportunities are available:

### Green Waste Supervisor/Driver Loader

£25,201 - £27,607

Ref: DBK.001

You will be responsible for the day-to-day supervision of the Green Waste Collection service as well as the collection of green waste in sacks and bins and must be physically capable of carrying out the duties of the post including manual handling.

### Green Waste Loader

£17,385 - £19,008

Ref: DBK.002

You will collect green waste in sacks and bins and must be physically capable of carrying out the duties of the post including manual handling.

### Refuse Driver/Charge Hand Loader

£20,753 - £22,776

Ref: DBK.003

You will be responsible for a vehicle and crew used in the safe and efficient collection of domestic and trade waste. You must hold a current LGV driving licence for vehicles weighing up to 26 tonnes and be physically capable of carrying out the duties of the post including manual handling.

### Refuse Loader

£17,385 - £19,008

Ref: DBK.004

You will collect domestic or trade refuse in sacks or bins according to the schedules and as directed by either the Refuse Charge Hand or Cleansing Supervisor. You must be physically capable of carrying out the duties of the post including manual handling.

### Refuse Sack Driver/Deliverer

£17,385 - £19,008

Ref: DBK.005

You will transport and deliver rolls of plastic sacks according to the schedules as directed by the Sack Delivery Charge hand. You must be physically capable of carrying out the duties of the post including driving, manual handling and on foot deliveries to households.

All the posts require you to work up to eight Saturdays per year to cover for Public Holiday catch-ups and full details for each advert, job description and personal specifications can be found on the Sevenoaks website [www.sevenoaks.gov.uk](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk)

For an informal discussion about any of these posts, please contact John Cox, Cleansing Manager on 01959 567375.

To apply online please visit our website [www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/jobs) or contact the Human Resources Team by emailing [recruitment@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:recruitment@sevenoaks.gov.uk) or by phoning 01732 227383 to request an application pack quoting the relevant reference number.

Closing date: Friday 11 May 2012. Interviews will take place week commencing 21 May 2012 and will be arranged directly with short-listed candidates.

Sevenoaks District Council is committed to being an Equal Opportunities employer.



**Get your CV in front of local employers  
Upload it to [jobs24.co.uk](http://jobs24.co.uk) today**

## RECRUITMENT

To advertise call  
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SFL Construction Ltd Require  
**A Part Time Account Manager**  
Based In Maidstone Area  
Must Have Experience & A Proven Track Record  
Pro Rata £18-20,000  
Please email [info@sfl-construction.com](mailto:info@sfl-construction.com)  
Building For The Future With Secure Foundations

## CARE ASSISTANT

REQUIRED TO COVER MATERNITY LEAVE FOR  
ELDERLY RESIDENTIAL HOME IN FOLKESTONE  
MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE IN RESIDENTIAL CARE OF  
THE ELDERLY AND HAVE A MINIMUM OF NVQ 2 IN  
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE  
POST IS SUBJECT TO ENHANCED CRB  
DISCLOSURE, COST TO BE MET BY APPLICANT  
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT  
JULIA ON **01303 254019**

## Teach English at Home

- Could you host & teach one or two students (junior or adult)?
- Must have TEFL or recognized teaching qualification
- High standard of accommodation required
- Teaching materials, full support and training workshop provided

For further information call:  
**01227 722882**



[www.ilh.com](http://www.ilh.com)

## BLUE SHIELD INSURANCE SERVICES LIMITED

## Part Time Office Assistant

To work in a busy Insurance Office.  
Good telephone manner and computer literacy essential.  
Approx 20 hours pw.  
Apply in writing to  
**Mr B Garrard, Blue Shield Insurance Services  
Ltd, Prospect Road Hythe CT21 5NS**

## SITEMASTERSPLC CONSTRUCTION RECRUITMENT

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Be the first point of contact, monitor  
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efficient, computer literate & have experience in  
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Call **020 8469 3456** &  
[cv@sitemasters.plc.uk](mailto:cv@sitemasters.plc.uk)

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## PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT



The Spencer Wing is an independently owned and managed private hospital. We have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford and a 22 bed unit situated on the QEQM Hospital site. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

### Part time Staff Nurses Ashford

Closing date for applications - Friday 11th May 2012

#### Qualifications

Registered Nurse 1st Level

Evidence of continual professional development  
ENB 998 Teaching and Assessing Course or equivalent (desirable)  
To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit,  
please contact:

Debbie Burr - 01233 616201 Ext 86202

For job description and application form please contact:  
**Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd, The Spencer Wing,  
QEQM Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent, CT9 4BG**  
Telephone: 01843 234556 • Fax: 01843 296333  
E-mail: [jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com](mailto:jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com)

The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer  
These positions are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check



**Want to work in a motivated,  
forward thinking environment?**

Thanet Early Years Project is recruiting exceptional staff to join our teams of nursery professionals.

**At our Hand in Hand Nursery, Ramsgate:**

### Senior Practitioner

37.5 hrs pw all year round

### Experienced Level 3 Nursery Practitioner

26.25 hrs pw term time only

### Experienced Lunchtime Assistant

10 hrs pw term time only (ref HHLA)

**At our Growing Together Nursery, Ramsgate:**

### Experienced Lunchtime Assistant

12.5 hrs pw term time only (ref GT LA)

**For our Crèche team working throughout the Thanet area:**

### 2 x Crèche Supervisors

16 hrs pw term time only; car owner and driver essential

### 2 x Crèche Assistants

(min Level 2) flexible contract; car owner and driver desirable

All applicants must be suitably experienced and hold relevant qualifications, meeting the criteria as set out in the job description and person specification for each role.

**Contact Maria on 01843 591200, email her on [maria@thanetearlyyears.org](mailto:maria@thanetearlyyears.org) or visit our website [www.thanetearlyyears.org](http://www.thanetearlyyears.org) for an application form and further details of these exciting opportunities.**

Thanet Early Years Project is celebrating its 25th years of childcare to the local community, and offers competitive rates of pay, contributory pension scheme, excellent supervision and opportunities for professional development to its staff.

**Closing date for receipt of applications: midday 18th May 2012 with interviews planned to take place week commencing 28th May 2012.**

All appointments are subject to full enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks.



The Spencer Wing is an independently owned and managed private hospital. We have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford and a 22 bed unit situated on the QEQM Hospital site.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff

### Staff Nurses (Ashford) to work on our Flexi bank

Closing date for applications - Friday 11th May 2012

#### Qualifications

Registered Nurse 1st Level

Evidence of continual professional development  
ENB 998 Teaching and Assessing Course or equivalent (desirable)

To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:

Debbie Burr - 01233 616201 Ext 86202

For job description and application form please contact:  
**Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd, The Spencer Wing,  
QEQM Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent, CT9 4BG**  
Telephone: 01843 234556 • Fax: 01843 296333  
E-mail: [jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com](mailto:jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com)

The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer  
These positions are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check

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## Swale Academies Trust



## WESTLANDS SCHOOL

Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF

## SITE MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN/CARETAKER

**£14,240 - £16,144**

**37 hours a week**

The successful applicant will work as a member of the Site Maintenance team, line-managed by the Site Manager. As well as general caretaking duties, they will be expected to undertake site maintenance. A working knowledge and experience of carpentry, electrics, plumbing and decorating would be desirable.

Applicants must be prepared to work a variety of hours as and when required. Extra payments will be made to cover any out-of-hours lettings during evenings and weekends and for weekend/Bank Holiday standby duty, all of which are carried out on a mandatory, shared rota basis.

Recruitment packs are available from Westlands School or online ([www.westlands.org.uk](http://www.westlands.org.uk)). Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form. Closing date: Wednesday 9 May 2012

*Swale Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.*

**Contact Details**  
Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461  
Email [swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk](mailto:swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk)  
Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA

Swale Academies Trust Company No 7344732  
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**PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES**

### Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Mr Clive Bartram trading as CRB Services + Associates Limited of Unit 6A, Nuralite Industrial Estate, Higham, Rochester, Kent, ME3 7JA is applying for a licence to use Unit 6A, Nuralite Industrial Estate, Higham, Rochester, Kent, ME3 7JA as an operating centre for 5 goods vehicles and 0 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

### Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Russell Pollard and Partners trading as Actionpoint of Chestnut Court, Otterham Quay Lane, Rainham, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 8AS is applying for a licence to use Chestnut Court, Otterham Quay Lane, Rainham, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 8AS as an operating centre for 4 goods vehicles and 0 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

### MARRIAGE LICENCES

#### KENT COUNTY COUNCIL THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

#### APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-  
Name of Premises: **Hever Castle, Hever, Edenbridge**

Applicant: **Roland Smith**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley  
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives  
Library Centre  
James Whatman Way  
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ



#### KENT COUNTY COUNCIL THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

#### APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made by Mr Stephen Clerk, Cannister Hall, Selling, Faversham to Kent County Council, to grant an approval for a ceremony this premise.

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper.

Objections should be sent to the following address  
Cath Anley, Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives  
Kent History and Library Centre, James Whatman Way  
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ



**Swale  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or its setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.

#### REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 14 MAY 2012

SW/12/0056:

Double glazed windows to replace single glazed. Windows will be exactly the same style as present - 5 Union Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/12/0370:

Alterations to existing double garage to form studio flat - Burstall House, School Lane, BORDEN; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/0393:

Demolition and replacement of existing building for use as a tractor and implement store, and part domestic garage - Land r/o 24 Wallbridge Lane, UPCURCH; **REASONS 3 & 4**

SW/12/0395:

Demolition of the existing brick built front office extension; subdivide the main warehouse building to provide 6 mixed use B1, B2 & B8 units for change of use; alter the exterior of the building to provide separate entrances and frontages for each unit - 6/1 Trinity Trading Estate, Mill Way, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 3**

SW/12/0398:

Advertisement Consent for 1 internally illuminated wall mounted display unit - Co-op, 97 High Street, Milton Regis, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/0399:

Advertisement Consent for one internally illuminated wall mounted display unit - Co-op, 3 The Street, UPCURCH; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/0400:

Land works to create nature conservation habitat from arable land - Land at Harty Marshes, Isle of Harty, LEYSDOWN; **REASON 3**

SW/12/0403:

Application for removal of condition 7 of planning permission SW/10/0904 requiring details of surface water drainage, to include SUDS system and management regime - East Hall Farm, Parcels F & G, Murston, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 3**

SW/12/0431:

Renewal of planning permission SW/09/0078 for works to existing retail store to include extension, new elevation treatment and car park reconfiguration. Creation of new public realm space on part of Bridge Road car park and creation of improvement of linkage to High Street (Demolition of existing toilet block) - Tesco Stores Ltd, Bridge Road, SHEERNESS; **REASON 3**

SW/12/0432:

Listed Building Consent for re-positioning of existing flue - 1 Kings Cottage, The Street, EASTLING; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/0434:

Listed Building Consent for insertion of a stud partition wall - 1 Ospringe Place, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/0436:

Two storey extension with a single storey orangery to the rear of the premises - Bannister House, Bannister Hill, BORDEN; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/0438:

Conservation Area Consent for demolition of bungalow located in Bredgar Conservation Area - Redwood, Bexon Lane, BREDGAR; **REASON 1**

SW/12/0449:

Listed Building Consent for demolition & part exposure of stud wall between Kitchen & dining room - 2 Thatch Cottage, Water Lane, OSPRINGE; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/0482:

Listed Building Consent for the addition of a boiler flue and protective basket on the rear elevation of the building (retrospective) - 75 West Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman

Head of Planning

### PLANNING

#### Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/01016/HOUSE

**Church House High Street, Brenchley**

- Extension to lader area, new windows, doors with lantern light to breakfast area, enlargement of opening to kitchen (LB) (CA)

12/01017/LBC

**Church House High Street, Brenchley**

- Listed Building Consent Extension to lader area, new windows, doors with lantern light to breakfast area, enlargement of opening to kitchen (LB)

12/00994/HOUSE

**Rylands Nevill Park, Broadwater**

- First floor and roof extensions and renovation of property (CA)

12/01056/HOUSE

**20A Royal Chase Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**

- Single storey rear extension (CA)

12/01038/FUL

**Tile Barn Cottage Ayleswade Lane, Frittenden**

- Change of use from 2 dwellings into 1 with associated alterations, refurbishment and extensions; Replacement vehicular/pedestrian access (LB)

12/01039/LBC

**Tile Barn Cottage Ayleswade Lane, Frittenden**

- Listed Building Consent - Change of use from 2 dwellings into 1 with associated alterations, refurbishment and extensions; Removal of existing extensions (LB)

12/01104/HOUSE

**Finchcocks Barn Riseden, Goudhurst**

- New outbuilding (LB)

12/01105/LBC

**Finchcocks Barn Riseden, Goudhurst**

- Listed Building Consent - New outbuilding (LB)

12/00766/HOUSE

**Barnfield Barn High Street, Hawkhurst**

- Two velux conservation rooflights (retrospective) (EIA) (CA)

12/00775/LBC

**Barnfield Barn High Street, Hawkhurst**

- Listed Building Consent: Two velux conservation rooflights (retrospective) (LB)

12/01019/FUL

**Land Opposite Yew Tree Cottage Water Lane, Hawkhurst**

- Temporary use for the siting of two 'Yurts' for very low impact eco-camping (LB)

12/00955/LBC

**Susie Watson Design 15 High Street, Pantiles & St Marks**

- Listed Building Consent to retain MDF wall cladding (Ground floor and basement); new stud wall (basement); ceiling works, boxing in exposed steels and boxing in of beams around the skylight (ground floor); works to replace damaged glazing panels, easing and adjusting casement and splicing in new timbers of skylight; installation of track lighting and boxing in of columns to the rear of the shop already carried out (LB)

12/01015/FUL

**52 - 54 Camden Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**

- Change of use from A1 (shop) to Sui Generis (tanning shop) (CA)

12/00702/HOUSE

**The Barn Chalket Farm, Pembury**

- Installation of 10 black photovoltaic (pv) cells onto stable building roof (retrospective) (LB)

12/01037/FUL

**1 - 87 (Olds) Cranwell Road Rusthall, Rusthall**

- Demolition of 44 flats and removal of 10 trees covered by Tree Preservation Order 017/2009. 18 houses and 22 flats with landscaping, replacement tree planting and car parking (MAJOR)

12/00925/FUL

**Major Clark House Rope Walk, Sissinghurst C/O Cranbrook Parish**

- Demolition of existing building; Construction of new 2-3 storey building consisting of 24 flats (12 x 1-bed and 12 x 2-bed) for older persons (MAJOR)

12/01026/HOUSE

**The Old House 22 Modest Corner, Southborough Town Council**

- Demolition of side addition, lower ground and ground floor extensions (CA) (LB)

12/01033/LBC

**The Old House 22 Modest Corner, Southborough Town Council**

- Listed Building Consent: Demolition of side addition, lower ground and ground floor extensions (LB) (DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website ([www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk](http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk)), at the Old Fire Station, Stow Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to [planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk) or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe  
Head of Planning Services  
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 28 April 2012

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## PLANNING

## Planning applications



Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995  
 Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990  
 Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990  
 Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA/11/01877/FUL: 51 St Peter's Place, Canterbury, CT1 2DA First-floor extension to rear of dwelling. Applicant: Mr Jowatt Reason: Conservation area.  
 CA/11/02204/LB: 51 St Peter's Place, Canterbury, CT1 2DA First-floor extension to rear of dwelling. Applicant: Mr Jowatt Reason: Work to a listed building.  
 CA/12/00275/LB: 11-12 Orchard Street, Canterbury, CT2 8AP Internal alterations in association with conversion of public house to two dwellings, demolition of chimney stack and replacement of existing flat roof to rear. Applicant: Hill Property Ltd. Reason: Work to a listed building.  
 CA/12/00297/FUL: 18A St Radigunds Street, Canterbury, CT1 2AA Change of use from a day activity centre to a community cafe, Applicant: L-Arche Kent Community Reason: Conservation area.  
 CA/12/00301/FUL: 45 High Street, Whitstable, CT5 1AS The installation of a wall mounted condenser unit. Applicant: HSBC Bank PLC Reason: Conservation area.  
 CA/12/00302/ADV: 45 High Street, Whitstable, CT5 1AS Replacement non-illuminated ATM. Applicant: HSBC Bank PLC Reason: Conservation area.  
 CA/12/00376/FUL: 7B Douglas Road, Herne Bay, CT6 6AE Replacement windows to rear elevation of flat. Applicant: N Hoare Reason: Conservation area.  
 CA/12/00501/FUL: 37 Mickleburgh Hill, Herne Bay, CT6 6DT Erection of conservatory to rear elevation of dwelling. Applicant: Mrs Sheo-Rattan Reason: Conservation area.  
 CA/12/00544/FUL: 47 St Peters Street, Canterbury, CT1 2BG Change of use of ground floor (47 St Peter's Street) from retail (Use Class A1) and first-floor (1A St Peters Grove) from residential flat to a mixed use restaurant (Use Class A3) and take away (Use Class A5), installation of new shopfront and extract flue to rear elevation. Applicant: Kentstone Properties Ltd and China Excel Co Ltd Reason: Conservation area.  
 CA/12/00545/ADV: 47 St Peters Street, Canterbury, CT1 2BG Installation of 1 no internally illuminated fascia sign and 1 no internally illuminated projecting sign to the front elevation. Applicant: Kentstone Properties Ltd and China Excel Co Ltd Reason: Conservation area.  
 CA/12/00546/FUL: Land at 17 Tankerton Road, Whitstable, CT5 2AB Erection of a detached dwelling. Applicant: Mr and Mrs Pywell Reason: Conservation area.  
 CA/12/00550/LB: 15 Love Lane, Canterbury, CT1 1TZ Replacement dormer window to rear roof slope. Applicant: Mrs Bayly Reason: Work to a listed building.  
 CA/12/00559/FUL: The Old Farmhouse, The Drive, Chestfield, CT5 3NS Erection of new dwelling and erection of a new outbuilding to provide garaging and external storage in the garden of the Old Farmhouse. Applicant: Mr I Bower Smith Reason: Conservation area.  
 CA/12/00564/VAR: Freshfields, Westcourt Lane, Woolage Green, Womenswold, CT4 6SE Variation of conditions 13 and 14 of planning permission CA/11/01126/FUL relating to the approved drawings and the site access. Applicant: Mr Richardson Reason: Conservation area.  
 CA/12/00575/FUL: 6 King Street, Canterbury, CT1 2AR Replacement garage door. Applicant: Mr Millar Reason: Conservation area.  
 CA/12/00582/FUL: Former garage site, Shaftesbury Road, Canterbury, CT2 7LE Erection of detached bungalow with attached garage and associated parking. Applicant: Mr Michael Wiseman Reason: Conservation area.  
 CA/12/00591/FUL: Land adjacent to 29 Tile Kiln Hill, Blean, CT2 9EE Demolition of existing side extension and construction of new dwelling. Applicant: Mr and Mrs Grimes Reason: Conservation area.  
 CA/12/00592/FUL: 6 Victoria Road, Canterbury, CT1 3SG Addition of dormers to side elevation of dwelling. Applicant: Mr Fred McCormack Reason: Conservation area.  
 CA/12/00593/FUL: University of Kent, Parkinson Road, Blean, CT2 7SR Erection of enclosure to create three indoor multi purpose courts. Applicant: The University of Kent Reason: Major development.  
 CA/12/00597/FUL: 20 The Mount, Canterbury, CT3 4AN Single-storey rear extension to dwelling. Applicant: Mr Perace Reason: Conservation area.  
 CA/12/00599/FUL: Land to rear of Cornell, Woolage Green Road, Womenswold, CT4 6SF Change of use of land from horse paddock to domestic garden. Applicant: Mr Richardson Reason: Conservation area.  
 CA/12/00604/ADV: The Penny Theatre, 30-31 Northgate, Canterbury, CT1 1BL Replacement externally illuminated hanging sign and new illuminated sign. Applicant: Stonegate Pub Co Ltd Reason: Work to a listed building.  
 CA/12/00616/VAR: Land adjacent to Sargeants Parade, Parham Road, Canterbury, CT1 1GF Variation of condition 13 of APP/J2210/09/104193 (planning permission CA/09/142/FUL) to re-route riverside footpath and cycleway. Applicant: Pavilion Property Group Reason: Major development.  
 CA/12/00618/CAC: Ford Old Pumping Station, Ford Hill, Maypole, Hoath, CT3 4LS Partial demolition of building. Applicant: South East Water Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.  
 CA/12/00619/TPO: The Nest, Molehill Road, Chestfield, CT5 3PD Fell two Oak trees subject to TPO No 2 1968. Applicant: Crawford and Company Reason: Conservation area.  
 CA/12/00620/ADV: Cliff Dene, 11 Marine Parade, Whitstable, CT5 2BQ Free standing advertisement board. Applicant: Mr Thurston Reason: Conservation area.  
 CA/12/00626/FUL: 6 Dove Close, Herne, CT6 7HS Single-storey extension to rear of dwelling. Applicant: Mr and Mrs Vaughan Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to [development.control@canterbury.gov.uk](mailto:development.control@canterbury.gov.uk) to arrive on or before Monday 21 May.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: [www.canterbury.gov.uk/oc](http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/oc)

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration  
 Friday 27 April 2012

**THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**Town and Country Planning Act**  
**Notice of Applications**

MA/12/0421/S - WALNUT COTTAGE, CHURCH WALK, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9NR - First floor extension. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/0516/N - 79, BANK STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1SD - Alterations to first floor and second floor rear windows including infilling of 1 (no) window and replacement of windows with single glazed timber casements. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/0554/N - 94, HIGH STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1SA - An application for listed building consent for 1 no. non-illuminated projecting sign, 2no. externally illuminated fascia signs, an ATM header panel and a replacement wall plaque. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0569/S - EAST HALL BARN, EAST HALL HILL, BOUGHTON MONCHelsea, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4JX - An application for Certificate of Lawful Development for existing use being use of barn for storage of domestic chattels for a period in excess of four years. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0570/N - 28, ROSEACRE LANE, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4HZ - An application for listed building consent for erection of a single storey extension (resubmission of MA/12/0036). **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0571/N - 28, ROSEACRE LANE, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4HZ - Single Storey extension (resubmission of MA/11/2198). **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0592/S - EAST FARLEIGH HOUSE, LOWER ROAD, EAST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0JW - Listed building consent for removal of existing fence to provide for new vehicular access and parking area and erection of new brick wall and gate piers. **Reason: 3**

**Reasons for advertisement key:**

- 1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **13th May 2012**, quoting the application number.

**Rob Jarman**, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 29th April 2012



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**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION**  
**NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010 AND UNDER THE PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990**  
**KCC/SW/0124/2012 - Proposed development at 1 & 2 Depot Cottages, Canterbury Road, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8LY**

KCC - Capital Programme Delivery is applying to Kent County Council Planning Applications Group for planning permission for the proposed demolition of 2 derelict semi-detached cottages. The proposed development is adjacent to the Preston Next Faversham Conservation Area and may affect its character and/or appearance, and could also affect the setting of nearby listed buildings.

You may view this application at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT or at the Faversham Office, Alexander Centre, Preston Street, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8NY.

**PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990**

**KCC/SW/0125/2012 - Proposed development at Elham CEP School, Vicarage Lane, Elham, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 6TT**

Elham CEP School is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for erection of replacement boundary fencing along New Road frontage and realignment of pedestrian access within site. The proposed development is within the Elham Conservation Area and is likely to affect its character and/or appearance, and also affects the setting of a listed building.

You may view this application at Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at [www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications](http://www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications) or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to [planning.applications@kent.gov.uk](mailto:planning.applications@kent.gov.uk) or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough/District Council website.

**Sharon Thompson**  
**Head of Planning**  
**Applications Group**  
**Kent County Council**  
**Dated: 29 April 2012**



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## PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

## PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY &amp; VILLAGE GREENS

## PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**(PUBLIC FOOTPATH AU79, CHURCH YARD PASSAGE)**  
**(GATING) ORDER 2012**

**CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS & ENVIRONMENT ACT 2005**  
**HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 (GATING ORDERS) (ENGLAND)**  
**REGULATIONS 2006**

NOTICE is hereby given that The Kent County Council in exercise of all its powers under Part 1, Section 2 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 and Sections 129 A to 129 G of the Highways Act 1980 (Gating Orders) (England) Regulations 2006, is proposing to make a Gating Order the effect of which will prohibit public pedestrian access to Public Footpath AU79, Ashford, by means of installing a lockable gate.

The alternative route for pedestrians will be via Tufton Street, Bank Street and the High Street.

A copy of the proposed Order, an explanatory statement and a map showing the extent of the restriction may be inspected during normal office hours at the Kent County Council Offices, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX; and Kent Highways Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Henwood Industrial Estate, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD; and at Ashford Borough Council Offices, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1PL.

Anyone wishing to support or object to this proposal may do so in writing quoting the name of the proposed Order and Reference No: CAS/GDER/12/GO2 to: Graham Rusling, Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. All objections, representations or letters of support must be received on or before the 29th May 2012.

## PROW - IN THE CITY OF CANTERBURY

**NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDERS**  
**HIGHWAYS ACT 1980**  
**WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981**

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**(PUBLIC FOOTPATH CB151A (PARTS) LITTLEBOURNE)**  
**PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP**  
**AND STATEMENT**  
**MODIFICATION ORDERS NO.1 & NO.2, 2012**

On 19 April 2012 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Orders under section 119 of the Highways Act 1980. The effect of the Orders as confirmed is to divert:-

- The entire width of that length of **Public Footpath CB151A** which commences on the unaffected length of Public Footpath CB151A at NGR TR 1905 5693 (Point A) and runs in a south westerly thence southerly direction for 128 metres to its connection with the unaffected length of Public Footpath CB151A and Public Footpath CB152 at NGR TR 1898 5683 (Point B).
- The entire width of that length of **Public Footpath CB151A** which commences on the unaffected length of Public Footpath CB151A at NGR TR 1951 5744 (Point C) and runs in a south south westerly thence westerly direction for 144 metres to its connection with the unaffected length of Public Footpath CB151A at NGR TR 1940 5737 (Point D). and to provide:-
- A new length of **Public Footpath CB151A** with a width of 3.0 metres which commences on the unaffected length of Public Footpath CB151A at NGR TR 1905 5693 (Point A) and runs in a southerly direction for 49 metres to NGR TR 1905 5688 (Point O), south south westerly for 24 metres to NGR TR 1904 5686 (Point D), south westerly for 45 metres to NGR TR 1901 5683 (Point E), thence west north westerly through west south westerly for 32 metres to its connection with the unaffected length of Public Footpath CB151A and Public Footpath CB152 at NGR TR 1898 5683 (Point B).
- A new length of **Public Footpath CB151A** with a width of 3.0 metres which commences on the unaffected length of Public Footpath CB151A at NGR TR 1951 5744 (Point C) and runs in a west south westerly thence south westerly direction for 129 metres to its connection with the unaffected length of Public Footpath CB151A at NGR TR 1940 5737 (Point D).

All directions general, all distances approximate.

Copies of the Orders as confirmed and the Order Maps have been placed and may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the Offices of Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1YW or at the Countryside Access Service at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. Copies of the Orders and Maps may be purchased there.

The Orders come into force on 17 May 2012, but if a person aggrieved by the Orders wants to question the validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 29 April 2012, make an application to the High Court.

## PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF DOVER

**NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF MODIFICATION ORDER**  
**WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981**  
**DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT**

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**FOOTPATH EE399 (PART) AT TILMANSTONE)**  
**DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2012**

On 16th April 2012 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order without modifications.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by deleting the entire width of that section of public footpath EE399 which commences at its connection with public footpath EE398 (point A on the Order plan) and runs in a northerly direction for 11 metres and then in a north-westerly direction for 44 metres to NGR TR 3000 5097 (between the points A-B on the Order plan), and by adding a public footpath numbered EE399 with a width of 1.2 metres, which commences at the aforementioned point A and runs in a north-westerly direction for 39 metres along the southern edge of the woodland shave to NGR TR 3000 5095 (between the points A-C on the Order plan).

## THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

**FOOTPATH EE402B (PART) AT TILMANSTONE)**  
**DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2012**

On 16th April 2012 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order without modifications.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by deleting the entire width of that section of public footpath EE402B which commences on the west side of Willow Woods Road opposite the entrance to West Studdal Farm and runs in a north-westerly direction for 51 metres to NGR TR 3062 5000 (between the points A-B on the Order plan), and by adding a public footpath numbered EE402B with a width of 1.2 metres, which commences at the aforementioned point A and runs in a north-north-westerly direction for approximately 40 metres to NGR TR 3064 5000 (between the points A-C on the Order plan).

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and Map may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent, CT16 3PG or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may also be purchased there.

This Order became operative as from 16th April 2012 but if a person aggrieved by the Order desires to question the validity thereof or of any provision contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of Section 53(3)(c)(i) OR 53(3)(c)(iii) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, or that any of the requirements of Schedule 15 to the Act have not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he may, under Paragraph 12 of Schedule 15 to the Act, within 42 days from 29th April 2012 make application for the purpose to the High Court.

## PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER**  
**HIGHWAYS ACT 1980**  
**WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981**

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**(PUBLIC FOOTPATH KH555A (PART) CHART SUTTON)**  
**PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP**  
**AND STATEMENT**

**MODIFICATION ORDER 2012**

The above named Order made on 28 March 2012 under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 will divert the entire width of that length of public footpath numbered KH555A which commences at NGR TQ 7916 4937 (Point A) on the Order Plan, and runs in an east south-easterly direction for 136 metres to NGR TQ 7929 4933 (Point B). Between points A-B on the Order Plan; and will add a new length of public footpath numbered KH555A with a width of 2.0 metres which commences at NGR TQ 7916 4937 (Point A) on the Order Plan, and runs in an east north-easterly direction for 144 metres to NGR TQ 7929 4943 (Point C). Between points A-C on the Order Plan.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Offices of Maidstone Borough Council, The Gateway, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6IQ or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order may be sent in writing to Matthew Garvey at the Kent County Council (address as below). (Tel: 01622 221971) not later than 28 May 2012. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

## PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY

**NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF MODIFICATION ORDER**  
**WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981**

**DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT**

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**(FOOTPATH HE123 AT ACRISE)**  
**DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2012**

On 16th April 2012 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order without modifications.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by deleting the entire width of that section of public footpath HE123 which commences at its connection with public footpath HE122 and runs in a south-easterly direction for 40 metres to NGR TR 2000 4265 (between points A-B on the Order plan), and by adding a public footpath numbered HE123 with a width of 1.2 metres, which commences at the aforementioned point A and runs in an east-south-easterly direction for 30 metres to NGR TR 2000 4267 (between points A-C on the Order plan).

## THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

**FOOTPATH HL5 AT LYDD)**  
**DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2012**

On 16th April 2012 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order without modifications.

*This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.*

For further information, please contact  
 Kent Countryside Access Service,  
 on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)  
 or visit [www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess](http://www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess)

Countryside Access Service  
 Kent County Council  
 Invicta House  
 County Hall  
 Maidstone  
 Kent  
 ME14 1XX

Dated: 29th April 2012



To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on **01303 817056**

**HIGHWAYS - District of Dover****KENT COUNTY COUNCIL****ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT, 1984  
(ZEBRA CROSSING - PARK AVENUE, DEAL)**

Notice is hereby given that Kent County Council, as local traffic authority, and after consultation with the chief officer of police, propose to establish a crossing (Zebra) for pedestrians under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all their enabling powers, as follows:

**PARK AVENUE, DEAL**

180 metres east of the junction with Mill Road.

Dated 29 April 2012

Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager  
Kent County Council Highways

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
(VARIOUS ROADS, NONINGTON, DOVER)  
(SPEED LIMITS)  
ORDER 2012****ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER 1984**

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL, acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 82 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby makes the following Order:-

- The lengths of road described in the Schedule 1 to this Order shall become restricted for the purposes of Section 81 of the Road Traffic Act 1984.
- No person shall drive any motor vehicle at a speed exceeding 40 miles per hour on the lengths of road specified in the Schedule 2.
- No person shall drive any motor vehicle at a speed exceeding 50 miles per hour on the lengths of road specified in the Schedule 3.

NB: After consultation with Kent police and their response to the proposed speed limits, a change has been made to the proposed speed limits and this change is contained in Schedule 3 of the Order.

**Schedule 1  
(Restricted Roads)**

Beauchamps Lane, Nonington	From its junction with Easole Street in a north-westerly direction for a distance of 100 metres.
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**Schedule 2  
(Road subject to a speed limit of 40 mph)**

Holt Road, Nonington	From a point 11 metres south west of its junction with Aylesham Road in a north easterly direction to a point 28 metres west of its junction with Butter Street.
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**Schedule 3  
(Road subject to a speed limit of 50 mph)**

Sandwich Road, Nonington	From a point 250 metres east of Mill Lane in a easterly direction to a point 20 metres east of the access to Beech Grove.
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Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the Order and a statement of reasons to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Sessions House, Maidstone ME14 1XQ, between 8.30am and 5.00pm and at Dover District Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Dover, during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

**HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham****DARNLEY ROAD, GRAVESEND - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984  
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC  
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic in Darnley Road.

The Order will become effective on 14th May 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 5 days between the hours of 09:00 to 05:00. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Darnley Road, Overcliffe, Thames Way, B261, Dover Road, Dover Road East and Old Road West.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate UKPN to gain access to cable network.

**HIGHWAYS - Boroughs of Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge & Malling, Gravesend, Dartford and District of Sevenoaks****THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL****(VARIOUS ROADS, MAIDSTONE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, TONBRIDGE & MALLING, GRAVESEND, DARTFORD AND SEVENOAKS)****(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)****TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984  
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC  
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that because works are being carried out on or near the road Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on the routes described in schedule below.

The Order will become effective on 1st May 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The dates shown in the schedules are anticipated dates however actual work dates will be displayed by signage on site 7 days in advance. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative routes for the restrictions are also stated in the attached schedules.

The roads in the schedule will need to be re-closed approximately 7 days after original closure to carry out road sweeping and replacement of lines.

**Schedule****MAIDSTONE****Maidstone East**

Road Name: Bottom Pond Road, Wormshill  
Extent: The Street, Wormshill to Bedmonton Lane  
Date: 3rd May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Via Lime Kiln Road, Bashford Barn Lane, Swanton Street and Court Dane Shaws and Bedmonton Lane and The Street

Road Name: Bedmonton Lane, Wormshill  
Extent: From The Street, Wormshill to Court Dane Shaws.  
Date: 4th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Via The Street, The Street, Bottom Pond Road, Lime Kiln Road, Bashford Barn Lane, Swanton Street and Court Dane Shaws

Road Name: Clapper Lane, Staplehurst  
Extent: A229 Maidstone Road to Marden Road  
Date: 6th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Via Marden Road, A229 Station Road and Maidstone Road

Road Name: Greenway Farstal, (Greenway Lane), Harrietsham  
Extent: Greenway Court Road to Holm Mill Lane  
Date: 2nd May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Holm Mill Lane, A20 Ashford Road and Greenway Court Road

Road Name: Hubbards Hill, Lenham  
Extent: A20 Ashford Road to Warren Street  
Date: 3rd May 2011 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Via Warren Street, Waterditch Lane, Rayners Hill and A20 Ashford Road

Road Name: Woodcock Lane, Boughton Malherbe  
Extent: Headcorn Road to Coldbridge Lane  
Date: 6th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Via Coldbridge Lane and Headcorn Road

Road Name: Stede Hill, Harrietsham  
Extent: Marley Road to Ringlestone Road  
Date: 2nd May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Via Ringlestone Road, Ashdown Road, West Street, Faversham Road, A20 Ashford Road, Church Road and Stede Hill

Road Name: Sandway, Boughton Malherbe  
Extent: Boughton Road to Bowley Lane (where it changes to Coach Road)  
Date: 4th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Via Boughton Road, Church Road, Woodcock Lane, Coldbridge Lane, Egerton House Road and Coach Road

Road Name: Old Mill Road, Leeds  
Extent: A20 Ashford Road to Forge Lane  
Date: 2nd May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Via Forge Lane, Caring Lane, Otham Lane and A20 Ashford Road

Road Name: Gossy Hill Road, Frinstead  
Extent: Bottom Pond Road to Frinstead church crossroads  
Date: 4th May 2012 between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Via Torry Hill Road, Frinstead Road, Horn Hill and Bottom Pond Road

Road Name: Battle Lane, Staplehurst  
Extent: Marden Road to B2079 Maidstone Road  
Date: 6th May 2012 between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Via B2079 Maidstone Road and Howland Road.

Road Name: Boughton Road/Church Road, Boughton Malherbe  
Extent: Sandway/Boughton Road crossroads to Woodcock Lane  
Date: 4th May 2012 between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Via Woodcock Lane, Headcorn Road, Lenham Heath Road and Boughton Road.

**Maidstone West**

Road Name: School Lane, Maidstone  
Extent: Willington Street to Oxford Rd  
Date: 1st May 2012 for 1 working day between 09:00 - 15:30  
Diversion: Willington Street, Northumberland Rd and Oxford Rd.

Road Name: Castle Hill, Thurnham  
Extent: Whole length.  
Date: 1st May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Cul de Sac

Road Name: Thurnham Lane, Thurnham  
Extent: Between Ware Street and Pilgrims Way  
Date: 1st May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Pilgrims Way, Water Lane and The Street.

Road Name: Redwall Lane, Linton  
Extent: A229 Linton Hill to Bonflower Lane  
Date: 7th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: A229 Linton Hill, Wheeler's Lane, Barnes Lane and Bonflower Lane.

Road Name: B2163 Teston Lane, West Farleigh.  
Extent: Teston Bridge to B2010 Lower Rd  
Date: 7th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: A26 Tonbridge Rd, Terrace Rd, Rocky Hill, St Peter's St, Bishops Way, A229 Mill Street, Palace Avenue, Upper Stone Street, Sheaf's Crescent, Hayle Rd, B210 Collage Rd, Tovil Rd, Tovil Hill, Farleigh Hill B210 Dean St, B210 Lower Rd.

**Tunbridge Wells**

Road Name: Glassenbury Road, Cranbrook  
Extent: Chalk Lane to A229 Hartley Road  
Date: 11th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Via A229 Hartley Road, Angley Road, A262 Goudhurst Road, Glassenbury Road.

Road Name: Pearson's Green Road, Paddock Wood  
Extent: Queen Street to Knowle Road  
Date: 8th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Via Pearson's Green Road, Churn Lane, B2162 Maidstone Road, Yew Tree Green Road, Crook Road, Pixot Hill, Mile Oak Road.

Road Name: A229 Rocks Hill/Camden Hill/The Common, Cranbrook  
Extent: j/w A262 Wilsley Pound roundabout to a point 150m south of Grandshore Lane  
Date: 11th May 2012 for 1 working day between 09:30 - 15:30  
Diversion: Via A262 The Street Sissinghurst, Sissinghurst Road, High Street Biddenden, A274 North Street, Headcorn Road, Biddenden Road, Biddenden Lane, Wheeler Street, Station Road, High Street Headcorn, North Street, Mill Bank, Maidstone Road, Headcorn Road, North Street, B2163 Plough Wents Road, Cock Street, Heath Road, A229 Linton Hill, Staplehurst Road, Maidstone Road, Station Road Staplehurst, High Street, and Cranbrook Road.

Road Name: Wellington Road, Hawkhurst  
Extent: A229 Cranbrook Road to Slip Mill Road  
Date: 12th May 2012 for 2 working days between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Via A229 Cranbrook Road, A268 High Street, Slip Mill Lane.

Road Name: Hearten oak Road, Hawkhurst  
Extent: A229 Cranbrook Road to Whites Lane  
Date: 13th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Via A229 Cranbrook Road and Ockley Road

Road Name: Field Green, Hawkhurst  
Extent: Sponden Lane to Foxhole Lane  
Date: 13th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Via Sponden Lane, A268 Rye Road and Foxhole Lane.

**For further information, please contact**

**Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,**

**on 08458 247 800 (local rate)**

**or visit [www.kent.gov.uk/highways](http://www.kent.gov.uk/highways)**



**Tonbridge & Malling**

Road Name: Powder Mill Lane, Leigh.  
Extent: Powder Mill Lane to Factory entrance beyond Hunters Seal  
Date: 15th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Cul de Sac

Road Name: Hamptons Road, Shipbourne.  
Extent: School Lane to Park Road, 16th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: East / West Carpenters Lane, A26 High St Hadlow, The Ridgeway, A227 Shipbourne Road, A227 Stumble Hill, Upper Green Rd, Reeds Lane.  
Diversion South: Dunks Green, Long Mill lane, The Street, Church Hill, School lane.

Road Name: Claygate Lane, Shipbourne.  
Extent: Entire Length  
Date: 17th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Reeds Lane, Hamptons Road, Puttenden Lane

Road Name: Park Road, East Peckham.  
Extent: Entire Length  
Date: 17th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Rydon Hall Rd, A228 Seven Mile Lane, B2015 Maidstone Rd, Gibbs Hill Nettlestead Lane.

Road Name: Stan Lane, West Peckham  
Extent: Spur between Swanton Road and Stan Lane.  
Date: 18th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Stan Lane and Swanton Rd

Road Name: Thong Lane, Borough Green.  
Extent: Entire Length  
Date: 21st May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Mill Lane, A227 Bates Hill, The Street, Fen Pond Rd, Borough Green Rd, A25 Sevenoaks Rd, Quarry Hill Rd.

Road Name: Ford Lane, Addington & Trottiscliffe.  
Extent: Addington Lane to Wrotham Water Road.  
Date: 21st May 2012 for 1 working day between 09:00 - 15:30  
Diversion: Allington Lane, Trottiscliffe Rd, A20 London Rd.

Road Name: Fairseat Lane, Wrotham.  
Extent: Entire Length  
Date: 21st May 2012 for 1 working day between 09:00 - 15:30  
Diversion: Platt House Lane, Vigo Rd and A227 Gravesend Rd.

Road Name: Platt House Lane, Stansted.  
Extent: Entire Length  
Date: 21st May 2012 for 1 working day between 09:00 - 15:30  
Diversion: South Bound: Vigo Road and A227 Gravesend Rd. North bound Fairseat Lane, A227 Gravesend Rd, Vigo Road

Road Name: Pilgrims Way, Wrotham.  
Extent: Entire length  
Date: 22nd May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: A20 London Road, Ford Lane, Wrotham Water Road.

Road Name: Wrotham Water Road, Wrotham.  
Extent: Entire Length  
Date: 22nd May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Ford Lane, The Street and Wrotham Water Lane.

Road Name: Roughett's Road, Ryarsh  
Extent: Church Road to The Street  
Date: 22nd May 2012 for 1 working day between 09:00 - 15:30  
Diversion: Woodgate Road, Trottiscliffe Road A20 London Road and Roughett's Road.

Road Name: Work House Lane, Ryarsh  
Extent: Entire Length  
Date: 23rd May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: The Street and Chapel Street.

Road Name: Park Farm Road, Ryarsh.  
Extent: Entire length.  
Date: 23rd May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Cul de Sac.

Road Name: Court Road, Burham  
Extent: Entire Length  
Date: 24th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Rochester Rd, Scarborough Lane and Old Church Rd.

Road Name: Hall Road, Woudham  
Extent: Entire Length  
Date: 24th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Cul de Sac

Road Name: School Lane, Woudham  
Extent: Entire Length  
Date: 24th May 2012 for 1 working day between 09:00 - 15:30  
Diversion: The High Street, Knowle Rd and Pilgrims Way.

**Gravesham**

Road Name: Church Road, Cobham.  
Extent: Round Street to Henhurst Road  
Date: 25th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Jeskyns Road, Henhurst Road, Sole Street, Round Street

Road Name: Dean Road, Gravesham  
Extent: Dean Lane to Oakendeon Road  
Date: 26th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Dean Lane, Chandlers Hill, Brimstone Hill, Oakendeon Road

Road Name: Round Street, Cobham  
Extent: Sole Street to Jeskyns Road  
Date: 26th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Church Road, Henhurst Road, Jeskyns Road, Sole Street

Road Name: Lower Rochester Road, Higham.  
Extent: Lower Rochester Road to School Lane  
Date: 26th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Lower Rochester Road, A289 Wainscott By Pass, A26 Gravesend Road, Forge Lane, School Lane

Road Name: Hermitage Road, Higham.  
Extent: School Lane to Lower Rochester Road  
Date: 27th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Lower Rochester Road, Church Street, Chalk Road, School Lane

**Dartford**

Road Name: Longfield Avenue, Longfield.  
Extent: New Barn Road for its entire length  
Date: 27th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: n/a

Road Name: Southfleet Road, Dartford.  
Extent: Swanscombe Street to Thames Way  
Date: 28th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Thames Way, Stonebridge Road, Galley Hill Road, High Street, Stanhope Road

Road Name: Station Road, Southfleet.  
Extent: Dale Road to Westwood Road  
Date: 28th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Dale Road, Hook Green Road, Highcross Road, Betsbarn Road, Park Corner Road, Foxhounds Lane

Road Name: Heath Lane Upper, Dartford.  
Extent: Oakfield Lane to Princes Road  
Date: 29th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Princes Road, Shepherds Lane, Oakfield Lane

Road Name: Church Hill, Wilmington  
Extent: Hawley Road to High Street  
Date: 29th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Hawley Road, Oakfield Lane, Common Lane, High Road

**Sevenoaks**

Road Name: Colstead, Ash-Cum-Ridley.  
Extent: Ash Road to Chapel Wood Road  
Date: 30th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Ash Road and Chapel Wood Road

Road Name: Pease Hill, Ash-Cum-Ridley.  
Extent: The Street to Hartley Bottom Road  
Date: 30th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: The Street, Ash Road, Redhill Road, and Hartley Bottom Road

Road Name: Maplescombe Lane, Farmingham.  
Extent: Donkey Lane to Botson Lane  
Date: 30th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Donkey Lane, A20 Gorse Hill, London Road and Botson Lane

Road Name: Cold Arbor Road, Chevening.  
Extent: A25 Westerham Road to Bridge Over A21  
Date: 31st May 2012 for 1 working day between 09:30 - 15:30  
Diversion: A25 Westerham Road, Main Road, High Street Brasted, Westerham Road, Brasted Road, Westerham Road, B2026 Hosey Hill, Hosey Common Road, Main Road, B269 Spout Lane, Pootings Road, B2042 Green Lane, Ide Hill Road, B2042 Wheatsheaf Hill, Chevening Road

Road Name: Cow Lane, Hever.  
Extent: Cowden Pound Road to Buckhurst Lane  
Date: 31st May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Buckhurst, Brockenhurst Lane and Buckhurst Lane

Road Name: Rogues Hill, Penshurst.  
Extent: Between Penshurst Village and "Swaylands" Development  
Date: 31st May 2012 for 1 working day between 09:30 - 15:30  
Diversion: B2176 Penshurst Road, Bidborough Ridge, A26 London Road, St John's Road, A264 Church Road, Bishops Down, Langton Road, Ashurst Road, B2188 Fordcombe Road, Spring Hill, Saints Hill, New Road, Fordcombe Road, Penshurst High Street.

Road Name: Roodlands Lane, Hever  
Extent: Green Lane to Clinton Lane.  
Date: 1st June 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Green Lane, Ide Hill Road and Bough Beech Road

**HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone****THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
(BRISHING ROAD, MAIDSTONE)  
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)****TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984  
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC  
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Brishing Road from outside Fleet Farm Cottage north to 2nd pole past bridge over stream Chart Sutton on or after Friday 18th May 2012 for a period of up to 1 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is via Brishing Lane, Heath Road and Vice versa.

BT openreach apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are to allow access to overhead cables for a new customer connection ,should you require any further information regarding these works, their contact is Kate Podsiadlo on 0370 0500792 .

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
(OTHAM LANE, OTHAM)  
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)****TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984  
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC  
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Otham Hole on or after Monday 14th May 2012 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Honey Lane, White Horse Lane, Gore Court Road, Sutton Road, New Road.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for carriageway patching. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Gemma Catt on 08458 247 800.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
(PYE LANE, ULCOMBE)  
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)****TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984  
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC  
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Pye Lane between Headcorn Road and Eastwood Road on or after Monday 14th May 2012 for a period of up to 1 week or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Headcorn Road and Eastwood Road.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to carry out ditching and carriageway repairs. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is John Reynolds on 08458 247 800.

**HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks****ASHGROVE ROAD SEVENOAKS - (TEMPORARY  
PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984  
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC  
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Ashgrove Road, Sevenoaks at junction of Hopgarden Lane to Oak Lane.

The Order will become effective on 29th April 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 30th April 2012 and should last approx 5 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Oak Lane, Weald Road, Ashgrove Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate the installation of a power network cable.

**DALTONS ROAD/CROCKENHILL TEMPORARY  
PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984  
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC  
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Daltons Road.

The Order will become effective on 13th May 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 14th May and will last 3 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Tyler Green Road, Crockenhill Road, Walden Road, East Hall Road, Gorse Road, Skeets Hill Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate essential water maintenance works.

**STANSTED LANE, SEVENOAKS (TEMPORARY  
PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984  
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC  
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic travelling at any speed greater than 30mph on A20 London Road Ash Lane, Stansted Lane, West Kingsdown at the entrance of the London Golf Club to the junction of Ash Lane.

The Order will become effective on 13th May 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 13th May 2012 and will last for approx 4 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate the Golf Live event.

**HIGHWAYS - District of Swale****HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 - SECTION 116****STOPPING UP OF LAND AT WARDS HILL ROAD, MINSTER**

I AM GIVING NOTICE THAT the Kent County Council propose to make an application to the Magistrates sitting at Canterbury Magistrates Court on Tuesday 26th June 2012 at 2pm for an Order under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish highway rights on the grounds that they are unnecessary on land adjacent to Wards Hill Road as highlighted on the plan on deposit.

A copy of this notice and the plan referred to are on deposit, and can be seen during normal office hours, at the main reception of Kent County Council at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ or Swale Borough Council at Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, ME10 3HT

If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter, please contact Traffic Schemes & Member Highway Fund at Kent Highway Services in writing at the address given below, or by telephone on 08458 247 800 (24 hour contact centre).

**For further information, please contact**

**Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,**

**on 08458 247 800 (local rate)**

**or visit [www.kent.gov.uk/highways](http://www.kent.gov.uk/highways)**



**HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet****MINNIS ROAD, BIRCHINGTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012  
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of a railway bridge inspection, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Minnis Road, Birchington, on or after 14 May 2012, from 00.01 hrs until 06.00 hrs.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via Grendham Bay Avenue, Sea View Road, Grendham Road, Lyell Road, Station Approach and Minnis Road.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (TRINITY SQUARE, MARGATE) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO 40) ORDER 2012**

The Kent County Council, in exercise of their powers and under Sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 44, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act hereby propose to make the following Order:

The Kent County Council (Various Roads, Thanet) (Traffic Regulation and Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2008 shall have effect as though:

**Roads in Margate in the District of Thanet**

The following item to be inserted in the First Schedule in the correct alphabetical sequence:

1. Trinity Square - on the western side for a distance of 16 metres in a northerly direction from the junction with Trinity Hill.

The effect of this order will be to install double yellow line parking restrictions around the new kerb build out at the junction of Trinity Hill and Trinity Square.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Thanet District Council, Cecil Street, Margate, during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 21st May 2012.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL****(VARIOUS ROADS, THANET) (SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 2012****(VARIOUS ROADS, THANET) (TRAFFIC REGULATION) ORDER 2002 (AMMENDMENT NO 1)****ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984****(VARIOUS ROADS, THANET) (PROVISION OF TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES)****THE HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 AS AMENDED BY THE TRANSPORT ACT 1981 AND THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1991**

**NOTICE** is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers proposes to make an Order under Sections 1(1), 2(1) and 2(2), Sections 81 to 84 of and part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, the effect of which will introduce varying speed limits along a section of Canterbury Road West and Sandwich Road in Thanet; and a 7.5 Tonne weight limit, except for access on both Canterbury Road West and Sandwich Road; and

**Under** section 90 A to Section 90 I of the Highways Act 1980 as amended by Section 32 and Schedule 10 of the Transport Act 1981 and by paragraph 12 of Schedule 4 of the Road Traffic Act 1991 and all other enabling powers, proposed to provide the traffic calming measures at the locations as described in Schedule 1 hereto:

As part of Kent County Council's regeneration programme, Phase 1 of East Kent Access was constructed and opened several years ago and Phase 2 included the construction of the A299 Hengist Way and A256 Richborough Way.

A further proposal has reduced the speed limit on the approaches to the "Lord of the Manor" roundabouts and the circulatory carriageways and the link road between them.

Following the construction of the new route the next section of works will affect roads bypassed by the new route. The new length of Canterbury Road West located east of its junction with "Cliffs End" roundabout has been declassified and it is proposed the existing lengths that are currently national speed limit be subject to a lower speed limit of 30mph. This will be from a point 80 metres east of the mid point of its junction with "Cliffs End" roundabout eastwards, to a

point 108 metres west of the western boundary of number 54 and from a point 128 metres east of the mid point of its junction with Sea View Road eastwards, to a point 140 metres south west of the mid point of its junction with the "Lord of the Manor" northern roundabout.

The current 30mph length in the residential section of Canterbury Road West will be extended slightly in both directions to meet with the terminal points at the extents of the 30mph speed limit.

The existing 40mph speed limit on Sandwich Road will be extended southwards to a point 103 metres south west of the south western boundary of number 131, which is prior to the new traffic calming measure and will encourage drivers to reduce their speeds before they drive through the residential section of Sandwich Road.

The proposals include the introduction of a 7.5 Tonne weight limit, except for access on Canterbury Road West, from a point 35 metres east of the mid point of its junction with "Cliffs End" roundabout eastwards, to a point 28 metres south west of the mid point of its junction with the "Lord of the Manor" northern roundabout.

The proposals also include the introduction of a 7.5 Tonne weight limit, except for access on Sandwich Road from a point 40 metres south west of the mid point of its junction with the "Lord of the Manor" southern roundabout south westwards, to a point 65 metres north east of the mid point of its junction with "Ebb's Fleet" roundabout.

The introduction of traffic calming measures is also included within the proposals. This will encourage drivers to maintain lower speeds within the area and to use the new routes unless requiring access to Cliffs End, or the adjoining minor roads.

Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd has been commissioned to work in partnership with the Kent County Council to progress the legal procedures necessary to implement the proposed measures.

A copy of the scheme proposal, an explanatory statement and a plan showing the extents of the scheme can be inspected during normal office hours at the Kent County Council Offices, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ, Thanet District Council Offices, PO Box 9, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent, CT9 1XZ, and affected Parish and Town Councils which are: Cliffs End PC, Manston PC and Ramsgate TC.

Anyone wishing to support these proposals, or object to them, should write to Diane Bourne, Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd, Miller House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6GB, quoting the name of the Order and reference No. "B1425100" and stating their reasons, by no later than Monday 21st May 2012.

**Schedule 1  
(Reduction of Carriageway Widths to 3.3 Metres)**

Canterbury Road West from a point 152 metres southeast of the mid point of its junction Cliffs End with "Cliffs End" roundabout south eastwards, for a distance of 10 metres.

from a point 36 metres north west of the north western boundary of number 54 westwards, for a distance of 10 metres.

from a point 58 metres east of the mid point of its junction with Sea View Road eastwards, for a distance of 10 metres.

from a point 81.5 metres southwest of the mid point of its junction with the "Lord of the Manor" northern roundabout south westwards, for a distance of 10 metres.

from a point 141.5 metres south east of the mid point of its junction

with the "Lord of the Manor" southern roundabout south eastwards, for a distance of 10 metres.

from a point 84 metres north east of the mid point of its junction with Cliffs End Road north eastwards, for a distance of 10 metres.

from a point 158 metres southwest of the mid point of its junction with Foads Lane south westwards, for a distance of 10 metres.

**HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling****THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (ASHES LANE, HADLOW) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Ashes Lane on or after Monday 30th April 2012 for a period of up to 1 week or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Higham Lane, Cuckoo Lane, A26 Tonbridge Road.

UK Power Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for cabling. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Kevin McDermott on 0797 3803611.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (MILL HALL & STATION ROAD LEVEL CROSSINGS, AYLESFORD) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Mill Hall and Station Road Level Crossings. Station Road will be closed between 23.40hrs on Friday 18th May 2012 to 04.00hrs Monday 21st May 2012 and Mill Hall will be closed between 23.40hrs on Friday 1st June 2012 to 20.00hrs Saturday 2nd June 2012.

The alternative route for Station Road is via Hall Road, A20 London Road, Rocky Hill, Broadway, St Peter's Bridge, Fairmeadow, A229 Royal Engineers Road, Running Horse Roundabout, Forstal Road, Bailey Bridge Road. There is no alternative route for Mill Hall, access will be maintained but delays are expected.

Network Rail apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for maintenance purposes. Should you require any further information regarding these works, please contact Kirsty Mallinson of Centurion Site Services Ltd on 01924 372957.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (HIGH STREET, SNODLAND) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on High Street from Holbrough Road to the end of the road and the one-way order on Queen's Avenue will be suspended on or after Monday 14th May 2012 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for eastbound traffic is via Holbrough Road, Queen's Avenue, Queen's Road, Waghorn Road and for westbound is via Waghorn Road, Queen's Road, Queen's Avenue, Holbrough Road, Rocford Road.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for carriageway resurfacing. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Robert Seggie on 08458 247 800.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (LONG MILL LANE, PLATT) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Long Mill Lane between Kettle Cottage and Platt Farm on or after Monday 14th May 2012 for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Crouch Lane, A25 Maidstone Road.

UK Power Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install new telegraph poles. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Derek Petts on 01622 632519.

**IGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells****THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (FOOTPATH, COLEBROOK ROAD, SOUTHBOROUGH) (PROHIBITION OF PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by pedestrian traffic on the footpath that runs between 81 and 83 Colebrook Road on or after Monday 30th April 2012 for a period of 4 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Baldwins Lane, North Farm Road, Highfield Road, High Brooms Road, Colebrook Road.

Mr Adams apologises for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to knock down and rebuild a retaining wall, and should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Mr Adams on 07900 18327.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (THE STREET, BENENDEN) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on The Street at the crossroads with the junctions of New Pond Road and Iden Green Road between 19.00hrs and 05.00hrs on or after Tuesday 1st May 2012 for a period of up to 1 night or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via A28 High Street/Hastings Road, A268 Sandhurst Road/Rye Road/Queens Road/Megrims Hill/Rye Road, A229 Cranbrook Road/Hawkhurst Road, B2086 Swattenden Lane/Benenden Road/Cranbrook Road/Mounts Hill.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for safety critical carriageway repairs. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Sue Laporte on 08458 247 800.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (WOODSIDE ROAD, RUSTHALL) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Woodsiede Road at the junction of Apsley Street on or after Monday 14th May 2012 for a period of up to 4 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Apsley Street, Rusthall Road, Harmony Street.

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for gas mains replacement. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Glen Miller on 01233 714082.

John Burr  
Director Kent Highways  
Invicta House  
County Hall,  
Maidstone  
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 29th April 2012

**For further information, please contact**

**Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,**

**on 08458 247 800 (local rate)**

**or visit [www.kent.gov.uk/highways](http://www.kent.gov.uk/highways)**



**HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury**

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
(CHURCH LANE, WHITSTABLE)  
(30 MPH SPEED LIMIT)  
ORDER 2011**

**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984**

The Kent County Council, acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 82, 83, 84 (1) and (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (hereinafter called the Act), and of all other enabling powers, after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby makes the following Order:

1. No person shall drive any motor vehicle at a speed exceeding 30 miles per hour on the lengths of road specified in the Schedule to this Order.
2. The Interpretation Act 1978 shall apply for the interpretation of this Order as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

**SCHEDULE  
(30 mph Speed Limit)**

1. Church Lane, Whitstable - From its junction with the A2990 Thanet Way to its junction with Seafarer Lane and Faversham Road.

Full details of the Order, which comes into operation 02nd May 2012, together with the relevant plans and any Orders amended by the Order and a statement of reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Offices of Canterbury City Council, Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
(FORDWICH ROAD, CANTERBURY)  
(WIDTH RESTRICTION)  
ORDER 2012**

**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER 1984**

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL, acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 1 and 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby makes the following Order:

**Schedule  
(Width Restriction)**

Road Name	Length of road affected
Fordwich Road, Canterbury	From its junction with Brooklands Close in a southerly direction for a distance of 110 metres.

Full details of the Order, which comes into operation 02nd May 2012, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the Order and a statement of reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Sessions House, Maidstone ME14 1XQ, between 8.30am and 5.00pm and at Canterbury City Council, Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
(WESTBROOK LANE, HERNE BAY)  
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) ORDER 2012**

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1) and (2), 2(1) to (3) and 3(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order will have the following effects:

1. Prohibition of Driving except for loading by HGV

Westbrook Lane, Herne Bay From the junction with A2990 Thanet Way for a distance of 51m in a northerly direction.

2. Prohibition of Driving except for access to and from the Household waste recycling centre in Westbrook Lane

Westbrook Lane, Herne Bay Between points 51m and 96m north of the junction with A2990 Thanet Way

Full details are contained in the draft Order which,

together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford TN24 8AD, and at Canterbury City Council (Herne Bay Office) William Street, Herne Bay CT6 5NX

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to:

The Development Planning Manager, Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD.

Or by email to [td.eastkent@kent.gov.uk](mailto:td.eastkent@kent.gov.uk) by Monday 21 May 2012.

**HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford**

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
(VARIOUS ROADS, DARTFORD)  
(WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES)  
(CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO. 12)  
ORDER 2012**

**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984**

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL, acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of its powers under Sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1) and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, intends to make the following Order:-

**Schedule  
(No waiting at any time)**

Road	Parish/Town	Length of Restriction
Old Bexley Lane	Wilmington	On both sides from a point in line with the eastern boundary of No. 1 Dartford Road to a point in line with the western boundary of No.6 Broomwood Close.
Barham Road	Dartford	(i) On the northern side from a point 12 metres northeast of its junction with Ivy Close to a point 12 metres south west of its junction with Ivy Close. (ii) On the northern side from a point 12 metres northeast of its junction with Howard Road to a point 12 metres southwest of its junction with Howard Road.
Ivy Close	Dartford	On both sides from its junction with Barham Road in a northerly direction for a distance of 12 metres.
Howard Road	Dartford	On both sides from its junction with Barham Road in a northerly direction for a distance of 12 metres.
Bayly Road	Dartford	(i) On both sides from its junction with Bow Arrow Lane in a southerly direction to a point 12 metres south of its junction with Bow Arrow Lane (ii) On both sides from its junction with Carlisle Road in a north westerly direction to a point 12 metres north east of its junction with Carlisle Road.
Bow Arrow Lane	Dartford	On the southern side from a point 12 metres northeast of its junction with Bayly Road to a point 12 metres southwest of its junction with Bayly Road.
Carlisle Road	Dartford	(i) On the northern side from a point 12 metres northeast of its junction with Bayly Road to a point 12 metres southwest of its junction with Bayly Road. (ii) On the southern side from a point 12 metres northeast of its junction with Howard Road to a point 12 metres southwest of its junction with Howard Road. (iii) On the southern side from a point 12 metres northeast of its junction with Mildred Close to a point 12 metres southwest of its junction with Mildred Close.

Brent Lane	Dartford	On the northern side from a point 12 metres northwest of its junction with Sussex Road to a point 12 metres southeast of its junction with Sussex Road.	The south western access road to Tredegar Road	Wilmington	(i) On the north eastern side from a point 10 metres south of its junction with Leyton Cross Road to its junction with Leyton Cross Road and (ii) On the south western side from a point 12 metres south of its junction with Leyton Cross Road to its junction with Leyton Cross Road.
Sussex Road	Dartford	On both sides from its junction with Brent Lane in a northern direction to a point 12 metres north of its junction with Brent Lane.	New Barn Road	Longfield	On the south eastern side from a point 12 metres northeast of its junction with Longfield Avenue to a point 12 metres southwest of its junction with Longfield Avenue.
Howard Road	Dartford	On both sides from its junction with Carlisle Road in a south easterly direction to a point 12 metres south of its junction with Carlisle Road.	Longfield Avenue	Longfield	On both sides from a point 12 metres east of its junction with New Barn Road in a westerly direction to its junction with New Barn Road.
Mildred Close	Dartford	(i) On both sides from a point 12 metres south east of its junction with Carlisle Road to its junction with Carlisle Road (ii) On the eastern side from a point 12 metres north west of its junction with Finchley Close to a point 12 metres south east of its junction with Finchley Close.	Kearny Road	Swanscombe	On the western side from a point 12 metres north of its junction with Munford Drive to a point 12 metres southwest of its junction with Munford Drive.
Chastilian Road	Dartford	On the south westerly side from a point 12 metres northeast of its junction with Knole Road to a point 12 metres southwest of its junction with Knole Road.	Munford Drive	Swanscombe	On both sides from a point 12 metres west of its junction with Kearny Road in an easterly direction to its junction with Kearny Road.
Knole Road	Dartford	On both sides from a point 12 metres south of its junction with Chastilian Road to its junction with Chastilian Road.	Norman Road	Dartford	On its southern and western side from a point between Houses No.8 and 10 Norman Road in an easterly then southerly direction for 24 metres.
Finchley Close	Dartford	On both sides from a point 12 metres northeast of its junction with Mildred Close in a south westerly direction to its junction with Mildred Close.	Oakfield Lane	Wilmington	On both sides from a point 21 metres west of the roundabout junction with Pinewood Place in an easterly direction for a distance of 69 metres.
Lewis Road	Swanscombe and Greenhithe	(i) On the south and western side from a point in line with the shared boundary of properties 10 and 11, in a southerly direction for a distance of 15 metres. (ii) On both sides from a point 12 metres north of its junction with Ames Road in a southerly direction to its junction with Ames Road.	Pinewood Place	Wilmington	On both sides from its junction with Oakfield Lane to a point 15 metres north of Chaple Walk.
Ames Road	Swanscombe and Greenhithe	On the northern side from a point 12 metres northwest of its junction with Lewis Road to a point 12 metres southeast of its junction with Lewis Road.	Maplehurst Close	Wilmington	On both sides from its junction with Pinewood Place in a north westerly direction for a distance of 12 metres.
Leyton Cross Road	Wilmington	On the south eastern side from a point 12 metres northeast of its junction with the south western access road to Tredegar Road to a point 12 metres southwest of its junction with the south western access road to Tredegar Road.	Powder Mill Lane	Dartford	On the north western side, from a point 18 metres south west of the access between buildings 77-78 and 76 to a point 40 metres north east of the access.

Full details of the proposed Order, an explanatory statement and a map illustrating the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours in the offices of the Dartford Borough Council Civic Centre Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent, DA1 1DR and Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX.

If you wish to support or object to the proposals you should write to the Traffic Schemes and MHF Manager at Kent Highway Services, Unit 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to [TRO@kent.gov.uk](mailto:TRO@kent.gov.uk) stating the name of the order and your reasons, by not later than 12 noon on 28th May 2012.

**For further information, please contact**  
**Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,**  
**on 08458 247 800 (local rate)**  
**or visit [www.kent.gov.uk/highways](http://www.kent.gov.uk/highways)**





John Lydon is set to bring Public Image Ltd to big new music event

**SEE PAGE 59**



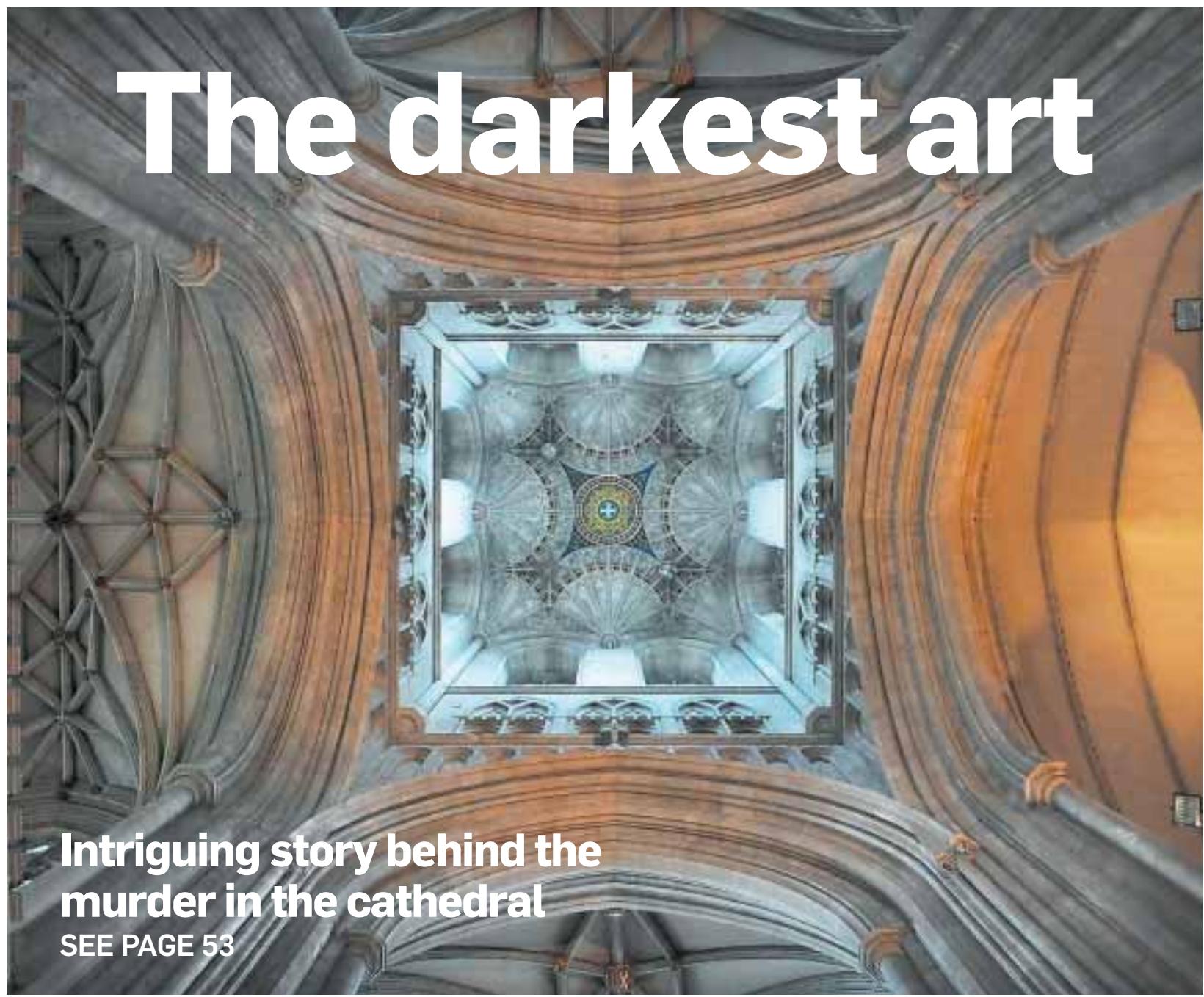
**COASTAL CRAFT**

After 75 years of exhibiting, artist is still going strong

**SEE PAGE 62**

# Kent Weekend

## The darkest art



**Intriguing story behind the murder in the cathedral**

**SEE PAGE 53**

**PLUS:** Revisiting 'the place to eat before you die' - **food and drink p55**  
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## HISTORY WATCH

## Thomas Becket

# The first (and worst) Canterbury tale

THE publication of a biography using contemporary accounts of his life and death has shed new light on the martyred Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Becket, writes Nick Ames.

Historian John Guy tells the story of Becket's rise to prominence and relationship with the man that history holds responsible for his murder – his one-time friend King Henry II.

Much of the emphasis of Thomas Becket: Warrior, Priest, Rebel, Victim is on Henry, a monarch whose inability to accept reality when it was in conflict with his own wishes seemed to verge on the insane.

The author, who will be lecturing on his work in the cathedral next month, also depicts the flaws in Becket's own character.

It shows a man who, to protect his own career prospects, refused to visit his former patron, the old Archbishop of Canterbury, on his deathbed.

It also shows a well-respected royal court member who quarrelled with the King over the trivial matter of a furred cloak and resigned from the chancellorship of England without consulting Henry first.

Guy points out that some of the accounts from which he draws came from men who knew Becket well but were written after his death at a time when calls to make him a saint were in full cry.

Becket's story is a well-known Kentish tale, and the contemporary evidence is extensive, so the facts are actually quite clear.

He was appointed first chancellor, then Archbishop of Canterbury, by Henry, who believed that he could rely on his old friend to support his policy of curbing the powers of the Church. But Becket stoutly defended the independence of the clerics and the supremacy of the papacy, in the face of an increasingly frustrated and angry king.

After many violent disputes, in December 1170 Henry's patience snapped. He is supposed to have cried out "Who will rid me of this turbulent priest?" – leading to four knights riding to Canterbury to slay Becket.

Hugh de Morville, Reginald FitzUrse, Richard le Breton and William de Tracy are believed to have stayed at Saltwood Castle before the

Pictures: PAUL JERREAU



murder and hid out at Tappington Hall, Denton, after their notorious deed.

The accounts of the monks present at the time paint the scene in gruesome detail as the knights leapt at the archbishop, slashing, hewing and stabbing with their swords.

Becket fell to his knees and offered his soul to God before the final blow, which sliced off the crown of his head.

The murder became the centre of a story of religion against state and a power struggle between two men convinced of their righteousness.

Becket's road to sainthood was fast. The remorseful king prostrated himself at his tomb, where miracles were reported to occur, and Becket was canonised swiftly, in 1173.

This was great news for Canterbury as the tombs of saints attracted crowds of pilgrims, bringing alms and trade with them.

Relics of the saint could be sold to carry his sanctity across Christendom – Becket was popular enough for many such dubious items to be on the market. Even at the time, critics asked whether there were enough small body parts or clothing to fill all the caskets supposedly

containing his holy relics.

The Canterbury Tales by Chaucer further cemented Becket's place in history and, as the scene of his murder, Canterbury is the place most associated with him – although he studied in Paris and lived much of his life in London.

Christine Powell, who works at the cathedral, is an expert on Thomas Becket and said visitors were fascinated by his story.

Pope John Paul II and Archbishop Robert Runcie both prayed at the site of his murder on May 29, 1982, and a sculpture showing two ragged steel swords and a broken sword point that throw a shadow behind a bare stone altar are an impressive memorial.

Powell said: "The place where Becket was killed is now very different to how it would have looked in medieval times. We know the ceiling would have been very much lower and everything a lot darker, especially as the murder took place on a December evening.

"That would have been the case elsewhere in the building – there would have been a lot of places the archbishop could have successfully hidden if he had tried to."

His remains were entombed in Trinity Chapel

in 1220 with a separate repository for the top of his skull, cloven off by the slash of a sword. But in 1538, during the Reformation, the shrine was destroyed and the remains lost forever.

"It was destroyed on the orders of King Henry VIII after his split from the Roman Catholic Church," said Powell. "Henry had a special dislike for Becket, as he had stood against royalty.

"We know where the tomb was sited and there are still noticeable depressions in the marble floor caused by the number of pilgrims who had knelt to pray there. Also, one stained-glass window depicting Becket is still in existence – possibly it was hidden by the monks when Henry's heralds came to the cathedral.

"There are what are known as the Miracle Windows, which show people who made the pilgrimage being helped in ways such as being cured of the plague."

• **Guy will be speaking in the nave of the cathedral on Tuesday, May 22, from 6.45pm-8.15pm. Rarely-seen artefacts will also be on display – tickets, from Canterbury Waterstones, cost £5.**

**Thomas Becket: Warrior, Priest, Rebel, Victim** is published by Viking, priced £25.

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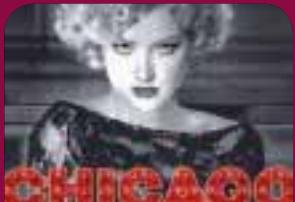


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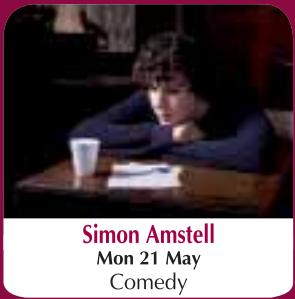
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# An Indian restaurant that's (still) at the top of its game

OME five years ago, I wrote in the forerunner to these pages that in a list of 10 things to do before you die, eating a lamb dhansak from the Minster Tandoori should feature somewhere near the top.

Since then, some have questioned such an admittedly extravagant claim, but such was the impression this wondrous place had made on me that I was genuinely moved to such praise.

And so it was, that after a long and gruelling day in the office, a return visit called loud and clear. Could the standard, set so high all that time ago, have been maintained?

At least one of the same cheery faces was present, and it belonged to the always-smiling gentleman who now manages the place.

The welcome was as warm as it ever was. It is an undoubted pleasure to be greeted with a personal hallo and handshake... and a sure sign that an establishment is well and truly ensconced in village life.

Which the Minster Tandoori clearly is, as the number of people who had elected to head there on a rainy Monday evening – so often the graveyard shift at many restaurants, some of which don't even bother opening at such a time – demonstrated.

Pappadums with chutneys and fresh, crisp

## RESTAURANT REVIEW



vegetables got me under way. Excellent, but let's launch into the real proof of the pudding – the main course (do please excuse the mixed metaphors).

Well, I suppose that if I was to test the precise comparative standard, I should revisit the lamb dhansak, but sometimes you just have to go where the eye and the palate take you... and on this occasion it was to 'Master Creations' (the Minster Tandoori is no place for understatement).

I elected for haash murchi – "sautéed duckling marinated in subtle spices... grilled then cooked with hot spice, chopped onions and fresh green chillies," the menu informed me.

Well, with such a write-up, wouldn't you?

I changed the standard accompaniment of pulao rice to mushroom rice and added sag aloo (potatoes cooked with spinach) and a keema nan (nan bread stuffed with minced lamb) to make, if I may be so bold, something of my own master creation.

Suffice to say, it worked gloriously, although to claim all the credit myself would be a little ungracious, now wouldn't it! Every element of the course was a delight, cooked to perfection and using spices as they are meant to be used.

The haash murchi was a new venture for me – and there aren't many such untrodden paths in the world of Indian cuisine – while the mushroom rice and sag aloo were flawless. Alongside all this was a fantastic keema nan – baked wonderfully and with superb meat that had not a trace of the cochineal overdose that so often spoils the experience elsewhere.

And the final conclusion? The Minster Tandoori is still there – right at the crown of the tree. This is a restaurant at the top of its game... and long may it stay so.

**Dave Mairs**

■ Minster Tandoori, 1 High Street, Minster, Thanet CT12 4BU.  
Telephone 01843 822516/7



## Art competition

PRIMARY-school children are invited to join one of the county's most exciting Olympic competitions in the countdown to London 2012.

The Create A Fruit & Veg Masterpiece Art Competition, backed by Archant KOS Media, is the brainchild of Produced in Kent, which is inviting all primary-school children to create a picture depicting London 2012 using real fruit and veg.

Only fruit and vegetables grown in Kent during the early summer can be used, and competitors simply need to take a photo of their picture and get it into the judges at [events@producedinkent.co.uk](mailto:events@producedinkent.co.uk) before Monday, June 11.

A live final will be held at Broadview Gardens, Hadlow, on Friday, June 29. You can visit [www.producedinkent.co.uk](http://www.producedinkent.co.uk) for more on the contest.

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## FOOD &amp; DRINK

## Country pubs and restaurants: Six of the Best



## The Red Lion Hernhill

### Why here...

Located in the picturesque village of Hernhill, there is a warm, cosy atmosphere, with quality home-cooked food. Choose a drink from a varied selection of wines, beers and real ales.

### On the menu...

Take the family to the popular Sunday lunch, where you can have one course for £10.50, two courses for £13.50 or three courses for £15.50. Choose from meats including pork, lamb and beef.

### How to book...

The Red Lion, Crockham Lane, Hernhill ME13 9JR  
phone: 01227 751207  
web: [www.theredlion.org](http://www.theredlion.org)

# Taste of the old times in the country

**T**HE pub on the green is one of the most typical scenes in British culture... and long may it continue to be so. And not far behind is the traditional barn-style alehouse standing alone out in the Kentish fields.

In winter a warm fire is often a centrepiece, while in the summer a fresh, warm breeze, thirst-quenching ales, wines and local juices combine to form a pure delight. But more than that, the country pub has become a place of fine dining and culinary expertise.

It is a meeting place where you can relax as well as have fun, and it's a place to celebrate weddings or remember those who have left us.

It is a fact that Kent's eateries are now attracting top chefs with Michelin-star experience. In the last couple

of years, renowned chefs have headed to the hosteries of Kent to carve out new centres of foody excellence, often choosing the more rural locations to kick-start their culinary campaigns.

Our rolling hills, leafy villages and fields of produce provide the perfect place for these experts to pick and choose from the best local ingredients and bring them to our plates.

Take a stroll, build your appetite and take in the sights and smells Kent has to offer before you taste it, too.

There are so many of these eateries dotted about our delightful downs, mysterious marshes and beautiful beaches, it is almost impossible to know where to start.

So just in case you're new to the area, or just looking for something a little different, we offer here six of the best...



## The Acorn Birchington

### Why here...

The Acorn Inn is a friendly, family-run pub in the heart of the seaside village of Birchington-on-Sea. Your hosts Peter and Cath offer a warm welcome to a pub that has existed since 1748.

### On the menu...

There is an excellent selection available from fish dishes to magnificently-cooked meat options on the à la carte menu, with prices ranging from £4.95 to £18.95. Something for everyone.

### How to book...

The Acorn Inn  
6 Park Lane, Birchington  
CT7 0AW  
phone: 01843 841196



## London Beach Tenterden

### Why here...

The London Beach offers one of the best à la carte menus in the county. The menus change on a regular basis but stick to the principle of serving only Kentish produce. The sophisticated and classy restaurant has a relaxed ambience with beautiful panoramic views across the Weald of Kent. Deep in the rolling hills of countryside, this gem has something to offer every palate.

### On the menu...

Start your meal with local game terrine, home-made chutney and toasted pistachio nuts.

Follow with pan-roasted venison steak with puy lentils, fondant potato, braised red cabbage and mustard jus. You can top off a meal with steamed syrup-sponge pudding with vanilla crème Anglaise.

### How to book...

London Beach Country Hotel and Spa, Ashford Road, Tenterden TN30 6HX  
phone: 01580 766279

## Waggon at Hale Chatham

### Why here...

Well-run family pub with good food, drinks and a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. All ages are welcome; in fact in the garden there is a mini family farm with chickens, rabbits and a miniature pig.

### On the menu...

The home-cooked food menu covers all tastes, with simple light bites to the ever-popular traditional Sunday roast, the Thai fishcakes or the Waggon burger... handmade with Angus Scotch beef.

### How to book...

179 Capstone Road, Chatham ME5 7PP  
phone: 01634 400800  
web: [www.waggonathale.co.uk](http://www.waggonathale.co.uk)



## The Black Pig Staple

### Why here...

The Black Pig is a fine 16th-century timbered building with a large garden. Its modern comfortable restaurant has an extensive range of home-cooked meals, using locally-sourced food.

### On the menu...

If you are looking for something new or different, try a whole roasted leg of lamb (minimum six people) presented to your table with all the trimmings, ready for you to carve for your guests.

### How to book...

Barnsole Road, Staple, near Canterbury CT3 1LE  
phone: 01304 813000  
web: [www.theblackpig.co.uk](http://www.theblackpig.co.uk)



## World's Wonder Warehorne

### Why here...

The World's Wonder sits in a beautiful area of countryside and offers a true rural eating experience.

The pub is just a short walk from Romney Marsh, sitting between Hamstreet and Tenterden. It has a more modern-looking façade these days, but hiding behind it is a history that reaches back more than a century. A glorious fusion of modern and traditional!

### On the menu...

The food is both cooked on the premises and sourced locally, with free-range meat and poultry all supplied by a local farmer.

All dishes are home-made for a fresh taste, including the famous steak-and-kidney pie as well as popular rabbit-and-bacon pie. Vegetarian options are available

### How to book...

Bookings taken through the website, [www.worldswonder.co.uk](http://www.worldswonder.co.uk); alternatively, you can phone on 01233 732431

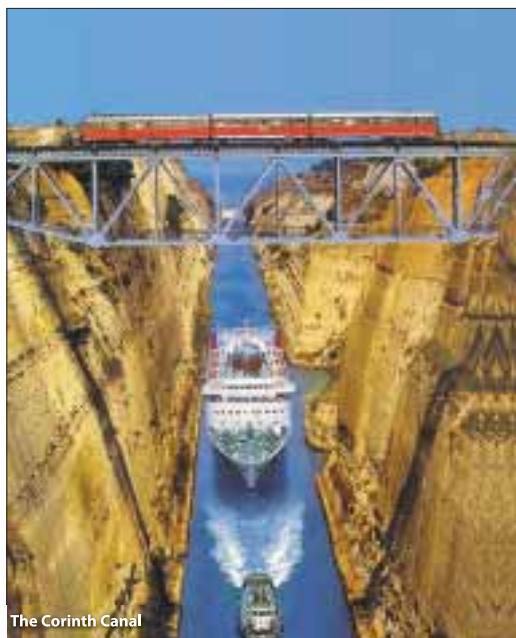
## READER OFFER

## Holidays

Call 01895 83 33 33  
for bookings and informationHolidays offered by **GN Holidays**, Higher Denham, Uxbridge UB9 5EL • Open: 9am to 5.30pm weekdays; 9.30am to 12.30pm Saturdays • Email: info@gnholidays.com • www.gnholidays.com**Corinth Canal, Greek Islands & Istanbul****Escorted Rail-Cruise from London  
13 days - 9 to 21 October, 2012****Quote GC10-KOS****HIGHLIGHTS & INCLUDED**

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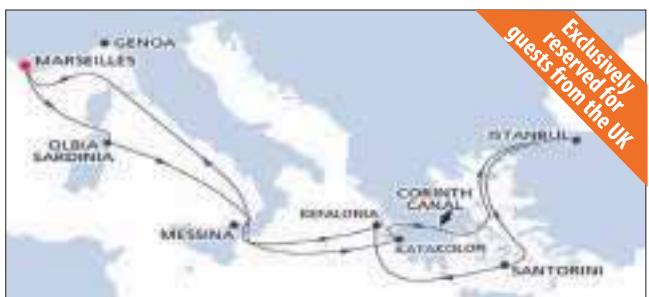
**USUAL PRICE from £1699pp****SALE PRICE from £1549pp**  
when booked by 4 May

The Corinth Canal



The mv Arion

£ Sterling on board

Exclusively reserved for  
guests from the UK

The pool



The restaurant



Floral beauty abounds at Floriade

**Floriade & Amsterdam River Cruise****Escorted Rail-Cruise from London, Ebbsfleet & Ashford  
5 days full board From £599pp  
Quote FL6-KOS****14 to 18 June, 2012**

Come with us on a relaxing river cruise to Holland's Floriade Horticultural Expo held just once every decade. From Amsterdam we cruise along peaceful Dutch waterways to Rotterdam via

Utrecht, Nijmegen, Cuijk (for Floriade) and Dordrecht.

Our floating hotel is the charming ms Alegria, with just 50 en suite cabins, a large, cosy lounge with bar, a library and restaurant.

**INCLUDED:**

- Escorted throughout
- Return rail travel from London St Pancras (from Ashford/Ebbsfleet on request) to Amsterdam - returning from Rotterdam
- 4-night full-board cruise sharing a standard outside cabin - upgrades available
- Entertainment
- Full-day visit to Floriade
- All transfers abroad

**Highland Rail Inverness & Loch Ness****Escorted Holiday by Rail****6 days, half board****Quote RS6/9-KOS****£599pp****15 June & 6 Sept, 2012**

This super holiday takes in one of the world's finest coast-to-coast railway journeys - Inverness to the Kyle of Lochalsh. Enjoy spectacular views from the train all the way. Passing Loch Carron, the railway clings to the rocky shoreline

towards the Cuillin Hills and the Isle of Skye before reaching journey's end - the Kyle of Lochalsh. Our holiday starts at London Kings Cross where we join the train to Inverness. Also included is a cruise on Loch Ness.

**INCLUDED:**

- Escorted throughout
- Return rail travel from London Kings Cross to Inverness
- 5 nights in the 3-star Royal Highland Hotel, Inverness with 5 breakfast & 5 dinners
- Rail excursion to the Kyle of Lochalsh
- Loch Ness cruise



99p drinks

**Grease & Saturday Night Fever Xmas Party****For over 40s only**

Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village, Suffolk Coast

**Self drive, 3 nights half board PLUS 99p Bar****Quote XP11-KOS****£99pp****2 November, 2012**

Join us for a fun-packed Christmas Party - for over 40s only - at Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village. Enjoy great entertainment including a Grease tribute act &amp; movie screening, festive food, a

99p Bar every night, refurbished chalet accommodation, an indoor pool, Pakefield's peaceful seafront location near Lowestoft and much more.

**INCLUDED:**

- 99p Bar from 6pm to 9pm every night
- Full Entertainment programme featuring Grease tribute act & movie screening
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts • 3 nights en-suite chalet with TV & tea/coffee-making facilities

**Good value, good service**

Value for money, good service throughout our stay. Staff all very helpful and friendly

- Mr Scripps of Kent

**Very good value**

- Mr &amp; Mrs Thurbon of Kent

**GN People very friendly and helpful**

- Mrs Norman of Sidcup

What Readers said about our Private Party Break at Pontin's Pakefield in March

Meet your **perfect partner** through your local trusted **dating service**

**Call: 0800 032 9100 to place a free ad**

## Women Seeking

Guys Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.

Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 or call 0906 635 0508

(T&Cs below)

**ATTRACTIVE** 48yr old lady, slim, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes travel, cooking, working out, seeking loving man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390888

**MICHELLE** fit trenty 40's female, no ties, good job, OHAC, fun to be with, looking for honest trustworthy male for friendship, poss it. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398757

**TRUDIE** blue eyes, dark hair, solvent, OHAC, enjoys life, spending money, going out, seeking genuine male to enjoy life with and spoil. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389755

**AMANDA** honest pretty single mum, 30, big brown eyes, attractive, seeking single male/dad for lots of TLC and companionship. pic call. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389737

**LINDA** busty blue eyed blonde bombshell, likes holidays, socialising, looking good, WLTM Mr Right to become a perfect trophy wife. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389735

**AMANDA** 25yr old easygoing singleton looking for fun times only with mature male, 35-55. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389733

**SOPHIE** lonely fun attractive female, 21, looking for fun nights out and cosy nights in with similar male, any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389731

**LADY** 60's, bubbly, hurt in past, likes socialising, cooking, cats, holidays, seeks kind honest gent, 58-65 for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389653

**JACQUELINE** 51, 5ft 8ins, green eyes, auburn hair, likes theatre, walks, sees honest, down to earth, sincere fun man for good times, friendship and nights out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389283

**BERYL** 57, likes fishing, home life, seeks gent, 60-65. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382503

**ANNE** romantic lady, 60's, looking for that special someone for LTR, late 50's or 60's with own car. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386225

**LADY** 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387743

**ALICE** 18yr old tall blonde carefree student, looking for exciting male 18-30 for good times only. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387107

**MANDY** 45, 5ft 6ins, attractive, blue/green eyes, trendy, seeks tall, N/S male of similar age with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384555

**HII** I'm Jo, petite, pretty, fed up with own company, seeking male to help me get back into the swing of things, for uncomplicated fun times together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387103

**DEBBIE** slim outgoing approachable attractive lassie, 33yrs, GSOH, sporty, looking for non serious fun male for friendship, maybe more. Any age/looks/status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387101

**CHARLIE** young 37yr old blonde attractive nurse, OHAC, no ties, new to the area and dating scene, looking to find love with genuine available male, 25-42 with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387051

(T&Cs below)

**ATTRACTIVE** 48yr old lady, slim, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes travel, cooking, working out, seeking loving man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387051

**LAURA** single female 22yrs, blonde, blue eyes, very attractive with curly figure, WLTM older male for fun times only. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387049

(T&Cs below)

**ATTRACTIVE** 48yr old lady, slim, blonde hair, 5ft 2ins, seeks kind gent for companionship and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383987

(T&Cs below)

**TASHA** single working mum seeks light hearted man, 35-45 who also likes to enjoy life to the full for passion, romance and TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387143

(T&Cs below)

**ATTRACTIVE** lady 45, medium build, fair hair, 5ft 2ins, seeks kind gent for extra circular activities. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383987

(T&Cs below)

**PETITE** French lady, likes to be spoilt/pampered, seeks gent, 40-55 for discreet liaisons. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379579

(T&Cs below)

**GWEN** lovely dark haired, dark blue eyed slim sensual female with GSOH, WLTM male 35-50 for fun dates and romantic nights in together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380443

(T&Cs below)

**CARMEL** blonde brown eyed girl, employed with OHAC, likes meals out, walking, looking for loving relationship with caring down to earth male. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380001

(T&Cs below)

**EMMA** pretty 30yr old Scottish lassie, new to the area and looking for some nice company. Give me a call and we can take it from there. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385373

(T&Cs below)

**LYNDA** 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384045

(T&Cs below)

**JO** 21yr old single mum who loves nights out, seeks understanding male for adult fun and more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386635

(T&Cs below)

**LOUISE** young 48, long hair, blue eyes, cultured lady, very genuine caring, seeking caring natured male 45-58 for loving romance. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386649

(T&Cs below)

**JACKIE** late 40's, attractive, slim, fun to be with, looking for friendship, maybe more. Enjoy walking, nights in and meals out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386643

(T&Cs below)

**HII** I'm Jane a 40yr old divorcee with 3 children, looking to fall in love again, seeks genuine, confident, very tactile male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389284

(T&Cs below)

**TINA** new to this and a bit nervous, lonely blue eyed 30yr old looking for male companion. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382503

(T&Cs below)

**ANNE** romantic lady, 60's, looking for that special someone for LTR, late 50's or 60's with own car. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386625

(T&Cs below)

**SARA** 31 tall sexy and single, lovely green eyes, outgoing and social WLTM female 35-45 for stable male for poss ITR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383155

(T&Cs below)

**LISA** blonde hair, blue eyes, medium build, sees fun loving, adventurous male, 45-52 for friendship, fun and who knows what else. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389020

(T&Cs below)

**BECKY** single 29yr old slim female, attractive, blonde, seeking good times with fun male who does not take life too seriously. Status/age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383055

(T&Cs below)

**ANNE** 60, Christian, WLTM similar person. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390496

(T&Cs below)

**AFFABLE** serene black attractive slim female 37 with a benevolent smile, loves reading nature, theatre, music. WLTM genuine caring gent to share laughter/life. London Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386941

(T&Cs below)

**FEMALE** 48, kind, caring, bubbly, GSOH, likes meat out, pubs, cinema, cooking, sees male, 40-50 with similar interests for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383787

(T&Cs below)

**CHRISTIAN** lady, seeks Christian man, 58 plus for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386565

(T&Cs below)

**JUNE** good looking divorced 40's female, bubbly romantic and looking for TLC. Genuine replies only pls. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387051

(T&Cs below)

**46YR** old young, curly single mum, easygoing, caring, GSOH, wants to live and loves, seeks honest man, 35-55 for genuine relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382081

(T&Cs below)

**ATTRACTIVE** lady 45, medium build, fair hair, seeks gent for companionship and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386303

(T&Cs below)

**TASHA** single working mum seeks light hearted man, 35-45 who also likes to enjoy life to the full for passion, romance and TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387143

(T&Cs below)

**ATTRACTIVE** lady 45, medium build, fair hair, seeks gent for companionship and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383987

(T&Cs below)

**TARA** 5ft big blue eyed babe with a cute smile looking for older sugar daddy who is not afraid to spend a little to live a lot! Good times always guaranteed. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387131

(T&Cs below)

**GWEN** lovely dark haired, dark blue eyed slim sensual female with GSOH, WLTM male 35-50 for fun dates and romantic nights in together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388137

(T&Cs below)

**PETITE** French lady, likes to be spoilt/pampered, seeks gent, 40-55 for discreet liaisons. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382081

(T&Cs below)

**TRIXI** looking for older respectful gentleman for fun times only. I am bubbly very fun and can accommodate, Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388135

(T&Cs below)

**YVONNE** professional 35yr old female looking for someone to relax with, affectionate attractive and looking for same. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388111

(T&Cs below)

**SANDY** slim attractive green eyed female, loves romantic walks, animals, WLTM looking caring for tactile relationship and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388109

(T&Cs below)

**DEBBIE** 5ft 8ins, short dark hair/eyes, slim, daughter, easygoing, likes dinner, cinema, bowling, gym, music, travel, sees male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386337

(T&Cs below)

**DIANE** single fit female, no children, OHAC, lots of free time, looking for a nice man to get to know and hopefully fall in love with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386351

(T&Cs below)

**TRACY** 39, fun blue eyed bust blonde, a little dizzy at times but a big bundle of fun, WLTM professional male for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386974

(T&Cs below)

**WENDY** cuddly 28yr old romantic, N/S, likes reading, cinema, meals out, sees male, 45-55 with GSOH be my Knight in shining armour. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389614

(T&Cs below)

**MARION** 38, slim, sporty, fun with good personality, loves travel, holding hands and caring for people. Seeks genuine male, no time wasters. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386840

(T&Cs below)

**KEELY** blonde 18yr old, blue eyes size 10, busty, stays at home too much and looking for casual fun with older male with OHAC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390844

(T&Cs below)

**TURKISH** Delight! Tall dark handsome, fun loving male, good company seeks female for relationship, hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388057

(T&Cs below)

**WENDY** enjoys most things in life and is up for anything, whatever you fancy! I'm willing to give it a go! Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386955

(T&Cs below)

**DENTAL** practitioner, handsome 47, 6ft, slim, blue eyes, thick dark hair, seeks slim, feminine female for cycling, tennis, golf and dinners out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389611

(T&Cs below)

**ENGLISH** gent, 60, seeking attractive African female, 50-65. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393081

(T&Cs below)

**GEM** 24, slim blonde with blue eyes, single mum of one, broadminded and extremely easygoing, WLTM genuine male for LTR. Dads welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386369

(T&Cs below)

**MATT** 43, 5ft 10ins, brown hair/eyes, seeks attractive, compatible female for fun times, drinks and adventures. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390804

(T&Cs below)

**FRISKY** filly 48-60 wanted by experienced jockey, me 56yr old female easygoing fellas. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384169

(T&Cs below)

**MALE** 51, likes keep fit, walks, meals out, seeks female of similar age for fun and good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390686

(T&Cs below)

**ADE** early 40's, 5ft 10ins, medium build, looking for lady for mutual fun and good times together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387495

(T&Cs below)

**TONI** 51, likes keep fit, walks, meals out, seeks female of similar age for fun and good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383163

(T&Cs below)

**JULIE** attractive blonde with strong family values seeking Mr Right. If you have a GSOH and are loving, pls reply. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384041

(T&Cs below)

**DENTAL** practitioner handsome 47, 6ft, blue eyes, dark hair, seeks slim feminine female for cycling, tennis, golf and dinners out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390798

(T&Cs below)

**ED** 57, smart, GSOH, likes cooking, DIY, computer games, travel, looking for female for LTR and to settle down with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383839

(T&Cs below)

**JOHN** 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, brown hair, slim, seeks black male for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387347

(T&Cs below)

**ROBERT** bi-curious 49, medium build, seeks similar for discreet friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388027

(T&Cs below)

**SMALL** N/S male, early 50's, seeks larger older male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388386

(T&Cs below)



## Contact members by phone:

See who has left you a message: Customer Support

**0906 515 7112 0906 515 7114 0844 800 1188**

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When you see a  symbol, this means the member has a photo. Text **PIC397**(space)4 digit pin No. under your photo, to 0779 366 6363. Or email: support@jmediauk.co.uk with your Mailbox & pin number.

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# KENT ATTRACTIONS

## Funky gibbon raises hopes A special birth

### Howletts, Bekesbourne

Open daily from 9.30am-6pm  
0844 842 4647  
www.aspinalfoundation.org

ONE of the most endangered species in the world has received a boost with the birth of a Javan gibbon at Howletts, Wild Animal Park.

Just 50 individuals are in captivity outside Indonesia, half of which are at Howletts and sister park Port Lympne, near Hythe.

Categorised on the IUCN Red List, it is estimated that as few as 2,500 mature individuals remain in their natural habitat. Primate chief Matt Ford said: "We are all delighted with our latest arrival to this group of Javan gibbons. Mum is very experienced and her baby boy is doing well."



The Javan gibbon is the most at-risk of the gibbon species, with hunting and deforestation contributing to the decline of the wild population. Ford said: "We house 11 males

and 13 females between the two parks. "With 25 viable births since 1988, we are the world's most successful breeder of this species."



## Those April showers... bring out May flowers

**Lyminge Forest, near Folkestone**  
01304 241806  
www.whitecliffscountyside.org.uk

THE bluebells are flowering at Lyminge Forest and sure to be at their best over the May bank-holiday weekend.

The White Cliffs Countryside Partnership has published online two short walks through the best woodland areas in which to see the beautiful bluebells and other spring flowers. The two routes are 3km long and 2.5km long and downloadable from the WCCP website. Also coming up as part of National Bike Week, there will be a guided cycle-ride around Lyminge Forest on Sunday, June 17.

## A Rotten rave at Rochester Here's Johnny!

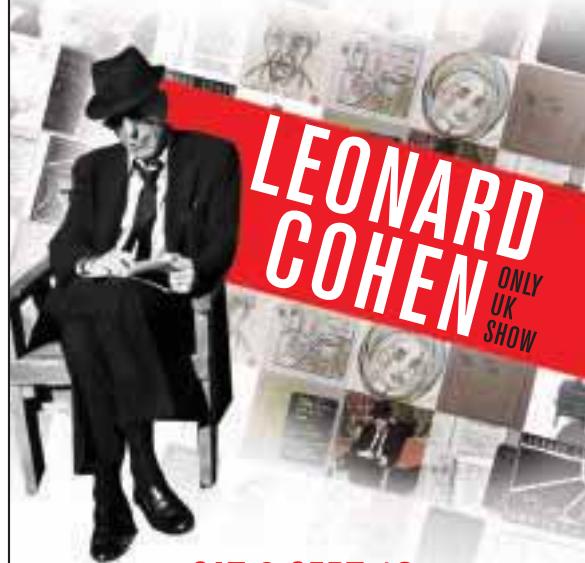
**Rochester Castle**  
Saturday, July 28  
www.musiceventone.co.uk  
Tickets on sale from Fri, May 4

A NEW music event is heading to Medway this summer, with one of the biggest stars in UK music history leading the way. John 'Rotten' Lydon will bring post-punk band Public Image



## VINCE POWER PRESENTS A DAY AT THE HOP FARM

AN OPEN AIR EVENT



**SAT 8 SEPT 12**

TICKETS ON SALE FROM:  
EVENTIM.CO.UK • 0844 249 1000 • HMV.COM • LASTMINUTE.COM  
FOR MORE INFO GO TO: [ADAYATTHEHOPFARM.COM](http://ADAYATTHEHOPFARM.COM)  
ALBUM "OLD IDEAS" OUT NOW

THE HOP FARM • PADDOCK WOOD • KENT • TN12 6PY

**Derek Block & Blackburn International Proudly Present two  
ELLEN KENT PRODUCTIONS**

**FEATURING THE INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED  
UKRAINIAN NATIONAL OPERA OF KHARKIV**



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7.30pm



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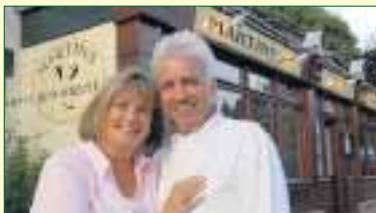
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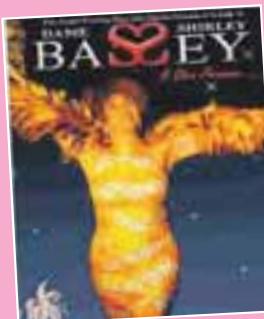
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The progressive pub hosts many events throughout the year, from wine-tasting to gourmet meals and quiz nights to live music.

The team prides itself on being family-friendly, offering a warm and welcoming atmosphere to all customers; there is a wide range of real ales and wine. But the unique feature is a small animal farm with rabbits, guinea pigs, chickens and the star of the show, Crackling the micro-pig, for guests to meet.

Renowned for good, honest, home-cooked British pub grub, the Waggon uses locally-sourced produce, with a sprinkling of popular world dishes. On Wednesday, May 16, the Waggon will feature South African gourmet meals including a six-course dinner with matching wine for only £29.99. Then, on Saturday, May 26, there will be live music with JacuzziSoup.

**■ Waggon at Hale, 179 Capstone Road, Chatham ME5 7PP (phone 01634 400800, website [www.waggonatiale.co.uk](http://www.waggonatiale.co.uk))**

## CHEF RECOMMENDS

**WAGGON AT HALE:** Telephone: 01634 400800

**Starter:** Pinot Grigio mushrooms, mushrooms cooked in a Pinot Grigio, cream and thyme sauce served on a bed of ciabatta.

**Main:** Home-made fisherman's pie... the chef's own twist on this popular classic dish. Chunks of cod, salmon, smoked haddock and prawns infused with cheese, chilli and lemon topped with the Waggon's own special mash, served with fresh seasonal vegetables.

**Dessert:** Chocolate-fudge cake served with a choice of custard, cream or ice-cream.

**THE BARGE:** Telephone: 08081 661024

**Starter:** Pan-fried scallops with crab-and-fennel risotto and light lobster bisque.

**Main:** Fillet of salmon with smoked-salmon linguine and Champagne-and-dill sauce.

**Dessert:** Raspberry cheesecake with raspberry posset.

**BLOOMERS:** 01474 322131

**Starter:** Warm goat's cheese with roasted red onion, rocket and Parmesan salad.

**Main:** Baked lamb layered with a walnut-and-mushroom stuffing served with a light mint jus.

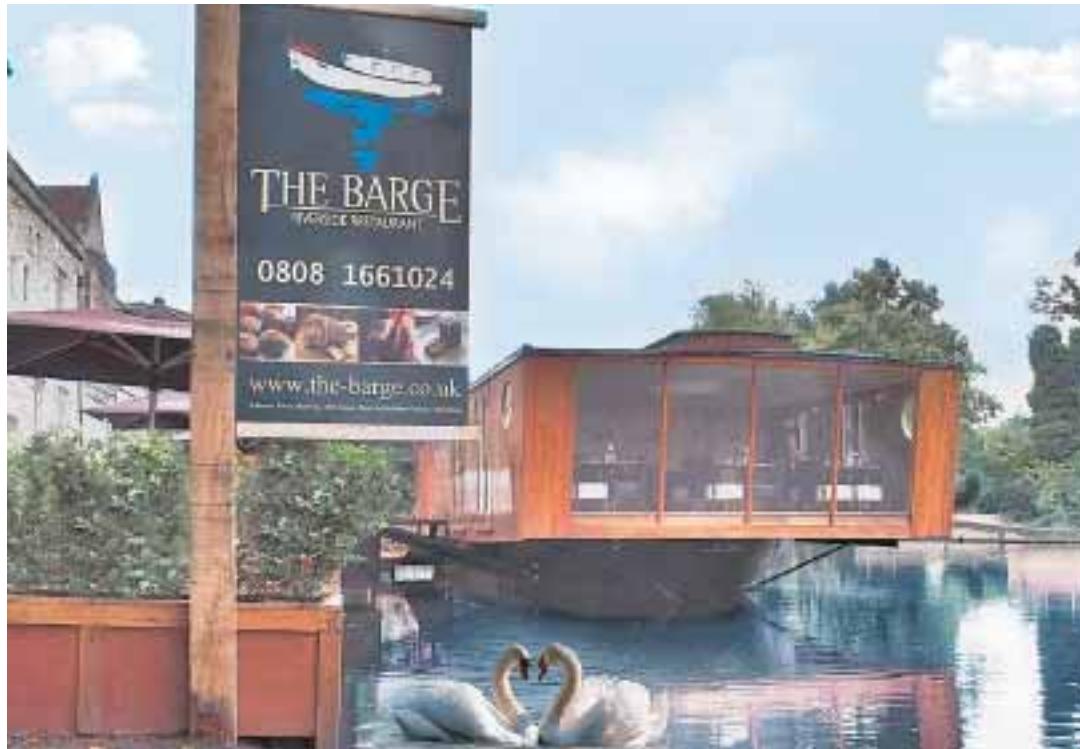
**Dessert:** Tiramisu, strawberries and cream.

**JALSHA TANDOORI:** Telephone: 0208 3000777; address 169-171 Station Road, Sidcup DA15 7AA

**Starter:** Medley kebab, lamb and chicken tikka and shish kebab.

**Main:** Lamb chop Achari.

**Dessert:** Chocolate mousse.



**PERFECT SETTING:** Whether you want a family meal or a romantic dinner, The Barge is the ideal place to eat out if you want a change from the norm

# A meal on the river is an adventure for taste buds

OPPORTUNITIES to try something different don't come along all that often, so a meal on The Barge in Maidstone should be grabbed with both hands.

Don't worry, you won't have to hoist the mainsail or scrub the deck – just sit back, relax and enjoy some of the best food Kent has to offer.

Floating on the scenic River Medway at the rear of the stunning Archbishop's Palace, The Barge is a permanently-moored vessel offering modern European cuisine, a friendly

atmosphere and excellent service.

As the only floating restaurant in the county, there is a perfect opportunity to try something a bit different at a fantastic river location with historic architecture all around.

The eatery offers 80 covers split over two rooms, with a quayside view and a spectacular additional 60 covers for relaxed alfresco dining during the warm spring and summer evenings.

The Barge can boast a brigade of Michelin-trained chefs who specialise in using produce from around both Kent and Sussex.

between Tuesday and Saturday, midday to 2.30pm for the last seating. Lunch on Sunday is between midday and 3pm.

The relaxed setting allows for special barbecue events out in the alfresco area of the restaurant as well as along the riverside – something that is a bit special for diners.

One of the best things about the venue is that it is the perfect choice for a light, bright family meal with loved ones and also an intimate setting for a couple's romantic dinner date.

The Barge is open for lunch be-

tween Tuesday and Saturday, midday to 2.30pm for the last seating. Lunch on Sunday is between midday and 3pm.

During the evenings the restaurant is open Tuesday to Saturday from 8pm-9.30pm. Weather permitting, there will be outdoor barbecue days on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the summer.

**■ The Barge, River Medway, The Archbishop's Palace, Maidstone ME15 6YE (phone 0808 1661024)**

## Romantic restaurant enjoyed by the stars

BLOOMERS Restaurant at The Overcliffe Hotel in Gravesend is a rare gem that should not be missed.

Established in 1980, it is one of the best-kept secrets in Kent, offering excellent food and an ambience second to none.

The bar, restaurant and conservatory are all candlelit at night, giving the place a dreamlike quality – ideal for that very special meal with the most important person in your life.

On most Saturdays the resident pianist will serenade diners on the grand piano, performing an excellent selection of music to suit every mood and provide light entertainment for diners.

This relaxing experience can be added to as diners sit back with a perfectly-chilled glass of Champagne or an expertly-mixed cocktail in the bright conservatory.

You can also choose from the first-class



menu and extensive wine list. Drinks can be served alfresco in the garden as spring and summer roll up.

In previous years those who have enjoyed the atmosphere at Bloomers form an impressive roll-call, including former Prime Minister Tony Blair, top performers such as Gerry and the Pacemakers, Rick Wakeman and Freddie Starr.

Bloomers is open to non-residents for dinner each evening, but to make the experience complete why not book a room and stay over at the fabulous hotel?

It is ideally situated for a short walk into the town centre; the local railway station is nearby; and Ebbsfleet International station can have you on the Continent in no time.

The food and the atmosphere on any night out at Bloomers is tough to beat anywhere in Kent.

**■ Bloomers Restaurant, Overcliffe Hotel, 15-16 Overcliffe, Gravesend DA11 0EF (phone 01474 322131, website [www.overclifffehotel.co.uk](http://www.overclifffehotel.co.uk))**

# EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

To be included on this page, please email  
[features@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:features@kosmedia.co.uk)



## The artist who loves the sea Roland Collins

**Mascalls Gallery,  
Paddock Wood**  
01892 839039  
[www.mascallsgallery.org](http://www.mascallsgallery.org)

THE paintings of Roland Collins have gone on show at Mascalls Gallery in Paddock Wood almost 75 years after the artist first exhibited a work in the Royal Academy

Summer Exhibition. Collins, now 93, is known for his landscape paintings and the new exhibition displays a piece featuring the Old Neptune pub on Whitstable seafront. The artist has found the coast of Kent and Sussex a fruitful landscape for painting and for a time he owned a cottage in Whitstable, from where he explored the region. The exhibition in Paddock Wood includes paintings of Newhaven, Rye, Gravesend and Northfleet. It will be open until Saturday, June 30. Check online for opening hours.

## Handel's Messiah The Merry Opera Co

**St Peter's Church, St Peters, Broadstairs**  
Sunday, April 29, at 3pm  
0845 2626263  
[info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk](mailto:info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk)

AFTER its sell-out production of La Traviata in Broadstairs last month, Kent-based The Merry Opera Company will perform its moving and unusual staged production of Handel's Messiah. The group tends to do things a little differently, moving away from traditions such as static soloists and huge choirs reading music. Instead, the show features a cast of just 12 singers and a lot more stage direction. The production is expected to be of high quality, following the highly-rated La Traviata performances that attracted opera fans from across the county. Tickets cost £10 in advance and £12 on the day.

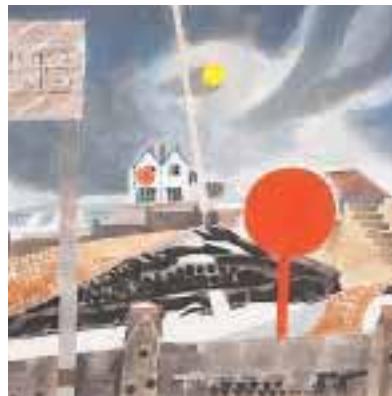


## TV stars head to home show DIY expertise

**Glow, Bluewater**  
Thu, May 31-Mon, June 4  
0870 777 0252  
[www.bluewater.co.uk](http://www.bluewater.co.uk)

THE Great British Home Show is at Bluewater's Glow venue next month, with stars from TV among the displays. Inmotion Exhibitions has put together a celebration of the

best of British design that includes demonstrations, celebrity appearances and inspiring room sets. The shows include a specially-created How-to Theatre that will feature demonstrations on home improvements and gardening. Big Brother-winner and DIY expert Craig Phillips will be appearing, as will DIY SOS's Oliver Heath and BBC Gardeners' World guru Aly Fowler. There are seminars with experts including designers Kelly Davies and Zoe Brewer.



## Far East Wing Collection of Japanese art

**Maidstone Museum**  
Open 10am-5pm  
01622 602838  
[museum.maidstone.gov.uk](http://museum.maidstone.gov.uk)

MAIDSTONE Museum has opened its new Japanese gallery after a visit from a very special guest. Ambassador Keiichi Hayashi cut the ribbon to the exhibition, which takes pride of place in the museum's recently-completed East Wing. The envoy was joined by Lord and Lady Bearsted and Nicholas and Caroline Samuel in a ceremony identical to one that opened the original Japanese Gallery at the museum way back in 1924. It was 88 years to the day that then-Japanese ambassador Baron Hyashi met Maidstone dignitaries to open the Lady Bearsted Wing. The museum, in St Faith Street, has one of the UK's finest collections of Japanese Edo-period art and the new gallery will display a selection of the 3,000-piece collection.

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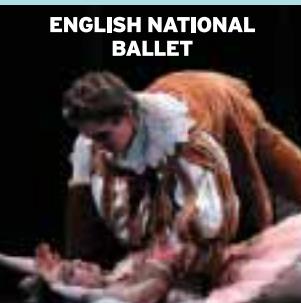


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# STAGE & ARTS

## Array of angles on African life Exhibition

**Powell-Cotton Museum, Quex Park, Birchington**  
Saturday, May 12, to October  
[www.quexmuseum.org](http://www.quexmuseum.org)

AN exhibition entitled Tala! Visions Of Angola is coming to Quex Park in Birchington. The Heritage Lottery Fund is in partnership with the Powell-Cotton Museum to present Angolan artefacts, photographs and film-footage, constituting the most comprehensive collection of its kind in Europe.

This extraordinary record of Angolan culture amassed during the 1930s is the realisation of the pioneering work and vision of two sisters, Diana and Antoinette Powell-Cotton, the daughters of the museum's founder, Major Percy Powell-Cotton. Helga Gamboa, an Angolan contemporary artist who has worked extensively with the collection, will be presenting a new video piece during the exhibition that runs until October.



## Psychic Sally She's here to communicate

**Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells**  
Friday, May 18, at 7.30pm  
01892 530613

FRESH from her new TV series, Psychic Sally On The Road on satellite channel Sky Living, Britain's most talked-about celebrity psychic, Sally Morgan, returns to Kent.

Morgan, who has been at the centre of much media speculation, brings her abilities and renowned personality to the stage for a unique theatrical experience. A friend of the celebrities, Morgan has done readings for the likes of Katie Price, George Michael and Uma Thurman. Audience members will be hoping for first-hand experience of Morgan's talents and her visit to Tunbridge Wells should be thrilling. Tickets are priced at £23.50 and are available at [www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk](http://www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk).



## Gareth Gates in panto ... as Prince Charming

**The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury**  
Friday, November 30-Sunday, January 20  
01227 787787  
[www.marlowetheatre.com](http://www.marlowetheatre.com)

POP IDOL star Gareth Gates has been announced as the lead in The Marlowe Theatre pantomime for 2012. The singer will play opposite punk-music icon Toyah Willcox in the Canterbury venue's production of Sleeping Beauty. Gates, who will play Prince Charming, was the runner-up to Will Young in the UK's first Pop Idol in 2002 and has had four No 1 singles in the UK. Punk princess Wilcox will experience the new venue after six appearances at the old Marlowe. Playing the Wicked Fairy, the singer is a household name whose career spans 32 years. Joining the team is Katrina Bryan from CBeebies' Nina And The Neurons.

## Boys in blue Sunglasses and songs

**Granville Theatre, Ramsgate**  
Saturday, May 5  
01843 591750  
[www.granvilletheatre.com](http://www.granvilletheatre.com)

THE Blues Brothers Banned are a high-energy 10-piece show-band with a twist. They present a night of music and mayhem featuring hits from the cult Blues Brothers

and Commitments movies throughout their performances. And if you like a bit of R&B, soul, swing or ska, there is really something for you and yours! Established in 2002, the Banned play regularly at the Edinburgh Festival and have toured the UK and Ireland, playing everywhere from pubs to thousand-seat venues. Blues Brothers Banned don't try to be a carbon-copy of the original Blues Brothers – instead, they mix music styles, comedy and slick moves for a good night out.



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Dinner from 8pm  
[www.mercure-maidstone.com](http://www.mercure-maidstone.com)



# Rattan: the furniture for all seasons

By Gary Wright

EVERYONE wants their garden to look great and everyone has their own ideas about planting and layout, but getting just the right seating to enjoy it can be just as daunting.

The Great British Home Show 2012 at Kent's new £62 million exhibition centre Glow, at Bluewater, has a huge section of the lower level devoted to gardens – and among the unique designs especially for the show will be a host of great furniture.

Rattan has become one of the biggest trends for 2012, offering everything from loungers and day-beds to formal dining sets and armchairs that look beautiful, are comfortable and, most importantly, are hard-wearing.

Among the leaders in the field is Oceans Outdoor Furniture, which will be displaying its full range of PE Rattan outdoor garden furniture, including some of the most luxurious outdoor chairs and tables on the market.

For relaxing, the Puerto Rico sofa set is beautifully presented and available in four colours.

It is versatile yet compact and the chaise end has been designed in both left- and right-handed configuration and the combination set comes in two sofa pieces and is complemented with a practical coffee table.



**COMFY SET-UP:** Rattan furniture has become one of the biggest trends this year, being both comfortable and hard-wearing

The Puerto Rico garden sofa seats five people or more comfortably, while it is also perfect for the intimate couple with their feet up, sipping drinks or

maybe just catching up on some favourite reading.

It is available in four line black, coffee, mocha and latte PE Rattan

weaves and comes as standard with Ecru cushion covers.

Full dining table sets start at £499, but the Deluxe Cube Dining Set is a

classic that would be difficult to equal anywhere; simple, compact and designed by Oceans, it is the height of opulence and luxury and will complement your outdoor space perfectly.

The Rattan garden furniture set will seat up to 10 people and comes complete with a 10-seat garden dining table with a 5mm tempered clear-glass top, six chairs with seat and back cushions, six footstools with seat cushions and a durable weather cover. Additional covers are as an optional extra in charcoal, red or lemon.

The show will also feature the timeless contemporary design of the Bermuda Sofa Set – the perfect way to bring your garden furniture up to date and extend your living space.

This relaxing sofa set comprises two armchairs with seat and back cushions, a luxurious three-seat sofa with seat and back cushions and a coffee table and side table both furnished with 5mm tempered clear-glass table tops and a weather cover.

■ **Oceans will be displaying at The Great British Home Show 2012 on the lower level in the Great British Gardens section and you can find out more about the show at [www.gbhomeshow.co.uk](http://www.gbhomeshow.co.uk). Readers can also get two tickets for the show by ordering online and entering the code KOS1.**



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# Homes & Gardens

## Enjoy wide open space of an orangery

THE orangery is becoming one of the top choices for home improvement in 2012, offering an elegant extension that brings your home and garden together.

An orangery is a brick building with a glass roof, many windows and pillars for support and decoration; it has become a popular alternative to a traditional conservatory.

They became popular in Britain between the 17th and 19th centuries in fashionable houses as places to grow citrus trees and exotic plants, first gaining popularity in Italy during the 1600s when technology advanced and artisans were able to produce large sheets of clear glass.

Suddenly, architecture changed and architects designed big, clear roofs to harness the sun's rays to take full advantage and grow fruit and plants, sometimes putting in a stove to heat the room throughout winter.

With their beautifully-designed pillars and fashioned brick corbelling, it is no wonder that they became a symbol of status – French King Louis XIV built the biggest orangery in Europe to show off his wealth and importance.

That was more than 300 years ago, but in the 21st century, as people want more traditional-looking houses, the orangery was revisited by architects as it offers a unique structure that complements the home but sets it apart.

The Great British Home Show 2012 at Glow, Bluewater, from Thursday, May 31, to Monday, June 4, will have a fully-constructed orangery at the show next month by Anglian Home



Improvements, which has led the way since re-creating its range of orangeries six months ago.

Anglian builds each orangery according to the home, ensuring architectural features are matched or reflected in the finished extension, including the types of windows and matching the stone or brick of the house, and it will install bi-fold doors for the finishing touch – if that's what the customer wants.

But it is not just the external design that makes these 21st-century orangeries unique – the interior is bang up to date and designed with each owner's requirements in mind.

Inside the build, between the orangery's roof



and the wall, there is a space, almost like a parapet, meaning the homeowner can tailor the new room by adding features like ceiling lights, which can set the mood for dinner parties or a relaxing evening with a glass of wine.

For homeowners who love to unwind listening to music, they can install concealed speakers into this space so that they immerse themselves in the sounds while relaxing in a comfortable chair and looking out across the garden.

By choosing to have an Anglian orangery, householders are able to give their property an extra space in a luxurious manner, matching traditional styles with contemporary living,

making the orangery a 21st-century building. Orangeries make an exceptional extension to a home, giving beautiful views into the garden from a lovely warm room, and one that owners will most definitely be proud to show to their friends, family and neighbours.

Anglian Home Improvements and The Great British Home Show 2012 is proud the company has chosen to sponsor the show at Glow.

■ You can find out more about the show at [www.gbhomeshow.co.uk](http://www.gbhomeshow.co.uk). Readers can get two tickets for the show by ordering their tickets online and entering the code KOS1.

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# Homes & Gardens



## Growing demand for your attention

Lucy Hewett gets to grips with the million and one jobs clamouring to be tackled this month

### LUCY'S PATCH

by LUCY HEWETT



and complete one job. For instance, one day, I repotted those pot-bound agapanthus that had desperately been needing repotting for three years – I had achieved something.

The next day, I weeded a small section of my veg patch; next day, I sowed a few seeds... the list started to get a few ticks on it. Admittedly, I would have rewritten it out and added a few new jobs to mine as soon as it had any ticks on it, but that's just me. My list seems to grow quicker than my garden and anyway what would I do with myself if I ever completed it?

This is where I envy a man's ability to be able to concentrate on and, without being distracted, finish a job... or perhaps that's just my man?

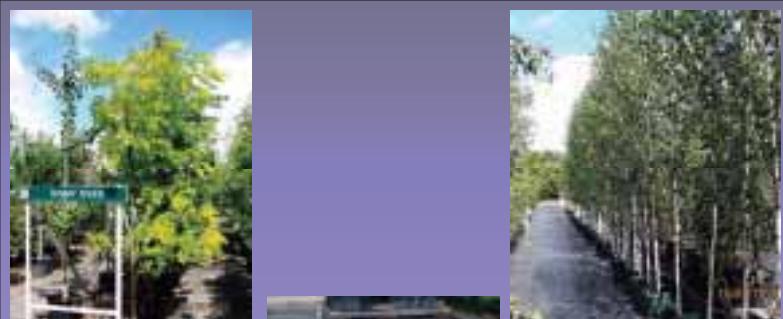
What a lovely time of year, though. I defy anyone to not feel invigorated with the bulbs and blossom bursting into life everywhere.

But where to start? So much to do and so little time, my mum always says. Just do a little every day – if you only have 30 minutes, just attack

I'm working on an exciting new project this month. I'm helping plan the revamp of the garden at a new pub involved with Richard Phillips – The Windmill Inn at Hollingbourne. It has a lovely big garden that we want to make into a nice place to come and spend time with your family. So I will be giving that attention before the reopening, planned for the end May.

Anyway, the jobs to do this month...

**Hoe** Preferably do this on dry days as weeds will die off and wilt quickly. Hoeing is great as it



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# Homes & Gardens



covers a large area quickly and saves your back.

Make sure your hoe is sharp and just slide it back slightly below the surface of the soil. Mulching beds will help to eliminate weeds and conserve moisture.

**Roses** Tie in climbing roses. If you bend over any upright stem, you will get flowers along the stem instead of just at the top. Now is also a good time to plant roses.

**Lavenders** Trim off any old flowers with secateurs, but don't prune into old wood.

**Dahlia and gladioli** Plant corms now – you will be grateful of that glorious display of colour later in the season.

**Prune** Early flowering shrubs like berberis, forsythia and spiraea should be pruned immediately after flowering. Also prune less hardy shrubs like ceanothus, fuchsia and hydrangea.

**Lawn** You will probably be mowing quite regularly now – apply a feed and treat weeds or moss.

Sow grass seed, or lay turf on prepared soil.

What to sow:

**Flower seeds** Marigolds, poppies, dill and cernithe. You can start to harden off any seedlings you have already sown outside now.

**Veg** If you are unsure if the ground is ready to plant, feel it. If it feels warm to touch or sit on, then that's a good indicator that it's ready.

If in doubt, cover it with fleece for a week or so before planting – the small rise in temperature can make a big difference. Sow direct: carrots, peas, beetroot, broad beans, spinach and chard; also pumpkins, squash, sweetcorn, basil and French beans. Keep an eye on the weather and fleece any small seedlings if it turns colder.

You can get some salad started in your greenhouse, conservatory or on a warm windowsill. I like to follow Sarah Raven's tip for this by sowing seeds on to damp compost in strips of guttering that we have cut into metre-lengths.



Once the seedlings are established, you can just slide the whole lot out into the prepared ground without disturbing the fragile roots.

Try corn salad, mizuna, rocket, winter purslane, mustard and plenty of lettuces. Then make a note of the date and sow another load in three- to four-week intervals to keep a continuous crop all summer long.

Plant maincrop potatoes – I usually do this around Easter. Start pulling the soil up around the developing shoots of early-sown potatoes.

**Fruit** Strawberries can be planted out now. It's best to remove flowers in the first year as you conserve strength for growth and gain larger crops in subsequent years.

A good layer of compost around the base of fruit trees will be giving them the nutrition they need for good cropping.

**Herbs** Chervil, chives and coriander can be sown direct; dill, fennel and French sorrel under cover.

Slugs and snails will be coming out in the warmer, wetter weather and can eat entire rows of seedlings overnight, so take action now by using a slug-controller before you get overrun.

**Buy a bug box** This will encourage helpful insects such as ladybirds, lacewings and bees into your garden, providing them with a bug box to give them somewhere to shelter or hibernate. This will help boost the balance between beneficial insects and pests.

The other day as we were giving my daughter Rosie's tree-house a spring-clean, there were hundreds of lacewings and ladybirds in there – she wasn't too pleased when I said she wasn't allowed to sweep them out.

By the time you read this, I will have run the Virgin London Marathon, which I am doing to raise money for Age UK, so after that I should hopefully have a bit less time running and a bit more time gardening!



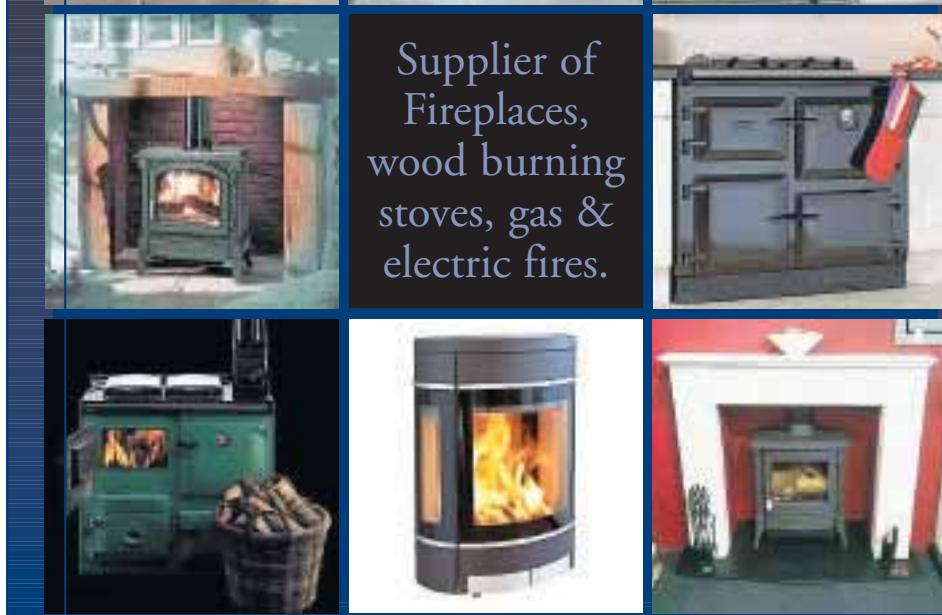
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# Homes & Gardens

# Cathedral cities rival London as the place to be for young and old alike



Lissy Scarlett finds out about a growing property trend

**W**HILE London continues to blaze a trail at the head of the residential property market, England's cathedral cities have experienced a recent surge in popularity and are drawing prospective purchasers away from the capital.

Connells estate agency has reported an exponential increase in house sales and enquiries in both Canterbury and its surrounds, placing Kent at the forefront of this upsurge. Given the cultural and historical riches that Kent's cities have to offer, it is no surprise that these idylls of English living are proving so popular.

Sales at Berkeley's riverside development of Kingsbrook Park in Canterbury, for example, have already exceeded targets in the first quarter of 2012 and – judging by enquiries, on-site visitors and reservations – the second quarter looks set to experience similar levels of success.

In addition to Canterbury, and of course not forgetting Rochester, feedback shows that the Cotswolds, East Anglia and the South West have all enjoyed a significant proportion of the house sales across the UK.

Tina Dedman, sales and marketing director at Berkeley, said: "Our figures reflect confidence in

the South East's property market and are indicative of the desirability of Kent's oldest city, Canterbury.

"Our Kingsbrook Park development is proving popular with both Kent residents and buyers from further afield. We believe this is because it offers a range of apartments to suit all tastes, as well as being able to boast possibly the only Georgian-style crescent houses in the city."

With Canterbury famed for being home to one of the oldest cathedrals in England, Berkeley believes that prospective buyers at Kingsbrook Park are instantly attracted to the convenience and low maintenance of a new-build property located in such close proximity to a site of historical and literary importance.

Furthermore, a significant number of buyers are moving to Canterbury from London, according to Antony Ludkins, manager at Connells Canterbury, who attributes this in part to the city's affordability combined with its transport links. He said: "Prospective purchasers who visit Canterbury from London are always astonished by how far their money stretches."

Residents of Canterbury benefit from excellent road links, and central London is easily

reachable by train. This gives them a winning combination – being able to live in a more affordable city coupled with the benefits of an accessible location. Canterbury's residents are also direct beneficiaries of the cultural advantages of living in a historic city that has an incredibly strong arts scene."

High-quality new-build developments are certainly drawing people to the area, and the homes at Kingsbrook Park showcase an architectural attention to detail that resonates throughout Canterbury. Compared with other cathedral cities such as Winchester, Canterbury offers far greater value for money.

However, the key elements that attract housebuyers to cathedral cities remain consistent, and with a historic cathedral and listed buildings alongside a great shopping district, complete with bars and bistros, Canterbury very much exemplifies all that is charming about such historic cities. Furthermore, with two well-regarded universities within the city, the centre is buzzing with activity, while being close to the coast offers an accessible change of scenery.

Although both Canterbury's and Rochester's housing markets are dominated by domestic



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# Homes & Gardens



**POPULAR SELECTION:** Kingsbrook Park in the cathedral city of Canterbury is attracting buyers



buyers, there is evidence that foreign investors are also finding the cathedral cities irresistible.

Connells Canterbury office has had buyers from Hong Kong and Australia investing in this popular city, indicating that as a World Heritage Site it commands interest from the international market.

Both cathedral cities feature prolifically across

the internet, magazines, newspapers and books internationally, which is only set to prompt further international inquiries and subsequent sales.

Equally, with an ever-increasing student population in the city, Canterbury itself is set to become a hotbed of house-purchasing activity in the long term, from both investor

parents and students who put roots down in the historic location.

Home to first-rate grammar schools, Canterbury and Rochester are particularly attractive to families. Older buyers are also catered for with some excellent amenities, and retail and leisure services are consolidated in often vibrant high streets.

Tina Dedman concluded: "Canterbury caters for all of the requirements of prospective residents across all levels, attracting young professionals, families, the mature worker and the retired alike, reinforcing precisely why cathedral cities are beginning to rival the capital in terms of popularity among house-buyers."

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# HOMES

## Policy focuses on needs for the over-60s

THE next five years could see a significant increase in the building of specialist housing designed for the over-60s following the publication of the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

In the framework there is, for the first time, an obligation on local authorities to build into their local development plans provision for housing for the elderly.

Local authorities will have to reflect the present and future

demographic mix of the population when considering their local housing needs over the next five to 15 years. As the population continues to age, the need for the provision of specialist housing for those over 60 becomes even greater.

Churchill Retirement Living, which specialises in retirement apartments, has welcomed the importance the policy has placed on specialist housing.

Planning director Andrew Burgess said: "We see the new

framework as a positive move and are particularly pleased to see the specific clauses putting the onus on local authorities to reflect future demographics when drawing up their local plans.

"Moving to an apartment specifically designed for independent older people can reduce the pressures of looking after a big house. We now expect to see this need specifically referenced in local plans throughout the country."

To read this and other property stories visit our property blog @ [homes24.co.uk](http://homes24.co.uk) ...or smartphone users can scan this QR code



## Owning your dream home may be just a NewBuy away

THERE is now an opportunity for home-hunters to take advantage of the NewBuy scheme at Leybourne Chase, Taylor Wimpey's development in Kent.

Whether they are first-time buyers or have a property to sell, prospective purchasers can secure selected homes at Leybourne Chase under this Government-backed initiative with a 95 per cent mortgage and 5 per cent deposit.

The scheme is intended as a helping hand for those who are struggling to save a large deposit for their first home, as well as for homeowners with limited equity in their current property.

NewBuy is available with new properties up to £500,000, and with prices at Leybourne Chase starting at just £179,995 for a two-bedroom apartment, purchasers may only require a deposit of just £9,000.

Meanwhile, three-bedroom homes are priced from just £249,995, with four-bedroom properties only £294,995 and five-bedroom detached houses from £489,995.

Fiona Creed, regional sales and marketing director for Taylor Wimpey, said: "We're urging home-hunters to take advantage now of NewBuy, which is helping people get moving."

"They no longer need to spend years saving a hefty deposit but can move into the home of their dreams sooner than they thought possible."

The three-bedroom Gunnersbury home, pictured, is priced from just £249,995 and eligible under the NewBuy scheme. It comprises a large living/dining room opening through French doors to a private rear garden, a contem-



porary fitted kitchen and a guest cloakroom off the entrance hallway.

Upstairs, the landing leads to the en-suite master bedroom, a comfortable guest bedroom, a third bedroom and a family bathroom.

The property benefits from two allocated parking spaces.

The development forms part of the Hospital Sites Programme, which is bringing 96 former hospital sites back into productive use.

As well as working with Taylor Wimpey to develop the site, the programme provides funding to ensure new and affordable homes are available for the local community.

Almost two-thirds of the development site – some 140 acres – is being preserved as open space for recreation and leisure, including parks, recreation grounds, fields, children's playgrounds, sports pitches, 'trim trail' footpaths, community allotments, a lake and an arboretum.

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## First GEAR MOTORING NEWS

- Peugeot's eco baby is just crying to be heard
- As you were: Skoda tops awards list... again
- British-built models show they've got power



China rides into Britain on back of its shining new Steed

# Driving

[carsforkent.co.uk](http://carsforkent.co.uk)

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MAYBE even BMW didn't realise what it had when it exited the Rover Group shambles in 2000 with the Mini brand tucked under its arm.

The failed rescue may have cost the German premium marque millions, but it saved what has proved to be an invaluable asset.

Just a year later, BMW launched its first homage to the 1960s original and has since created five spin-offs, all visibly linked to the mainstay hatchback model: the Clubman (estate), Convertible, Countryman (SUV/4x4), Coupé and now, the newly-launched Roadster – most being produced at Cowley in Oxford.

A further derivative, the Paceman or Countryman Coupé, is also expected next year, and it's even possible we could get a stripped-out jeep-like version, inspired by the Mini Moke (1964-89) and a booted Mini in the style of the 1961-69 Wolseley Hornet/Riley Elf – BMW still owns the Riley name.

For now, we can laud yet another potential star in the new Roadster (from £18,020) based on the Coupé.

As you would expect from the Roadster label, it's an open-top two-seater, compared with the four-up yet similar-sized Convertible, giving it extra stowage behind the passengers as well a 240-litre boot that can also be extended into the cabin – the Convertible offers 125 with seats up.

As with the Coupé, launched last year, all versions wear the sporty Cooper name, starting with the entry model and progressing to the Cooper S (£20,905), diesel-powered Cooper SD (£21,630) and flagship John Cooper Works (£24,860).

Expect many owners to spend even more on the many Mini customising options.

The Roadster also looks the part: the windscreen pillars are more dramatically raked and the roofline 20mm lower than the Convertible, while the profile is less awkward than the Coupé, which, for all its handling prowess, looks as though a giant foot has modified the roof.

The Roadster's canvas roof folds flat behind the seats to deliver a racy top-down profile and, presumably, escape the pram jibes that some soft-tops attract. The interior is familiar with retro yet comfy sports seats and a large central circular speedo, the rev counter behind the steering wheel and toggle switchgear.

The powertrains are well known, too, with fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions aided by BMW's EfficientDynamics technology, starting with the 122bhp 1.6-litre that delivers 0-62mph in 9.2 seconds with an average mpg in the mid-40s.

As with other Mini derivatives, though, many buyers will focus on the diesel: the 143bhp 2.0-litre unit delivers 0-62mph in 8.1 seconds and should average around 60mpg.

However, some buyers will argue that a Roadster should be about go-kart performance, so the Cooper S (0-62mph in seven seconds) or JCW (6.5 seconds) will be in their sights.



### MINI ROADSTER

**Price:**  
£18,020-£24,860

**Driving appeal:**  
★★★★★

**Image:**  
★★★★★

**Space:**  
★★★★★

**Value:**  
★★★★

**Running costs:**  
★★★★★

**Reliability:**  
★★★★★

**How green?:**  
★★★★

**Best rival:**  
Mazda MX-5

## As Mini goes Roadster, what's left for this classic 'British' car?



**OPEN FOR BUSINESS:**  
BMW's new incarnation for the Mini – the Roadster – is sure to be a head-turner on the UK's roads with its sharp lines and lower roofline as well as retro sports seats and comfy interior



### DON'T LIKE

... the look with roof up. It's better than the squashed profile of its Coupé sister but looks dumpy against the classical Mazda MX-5.



### NOT SURE

... there will be many takers over and above the more practical four-seat Mini Convertible, though almost twice the boot space might sway some.



### REALLY LIKE

... the marketing behind the car. With a Paceman/Countryman Coupé in the offing, will BMW add yet more Mini spin-offs?

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\*Model shown Zafira Tourer SE 1.4i 16v VVT Turbo (140PS) £23,670 with optional panoramic windscreen/panoramic sunroof £600, pearlescent paint £495 and 18" wheels £310, premium forward lighting pack £790, and Navi 600 sat nav £855. Total cost £26,720. Offer available for registrations between 03.04.12 and 02.07.12. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply.

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### MOTORING NEWS



### Eco Peugeot baby here soon

PEUGEOT has revealed that its all-new three- and five-door eco-friendly 208 supermini – the latest in a famous line – will be priced from an aggressive £9,995 and well equipped when it goes on sale in June.

Significantly, it will also be available on the French marque's innovative 'Just Add Fuel' monthly consumer lease programme, recently extended to drivers aged from 21 years.



### Skoda top for Driver Power

CZECH marque Skoda dominated the 2012 Auto Express Driver Power customer satisfaction survey.

Its Yeti SUV, pictured, took the top spot, the Superb family saloon/hatchback came second, and the middleweight Octavia was fourth – virtually a re-run of last year.

It was also the fourth year running the VW-owned brand was voted best manufacturer in the influential poll.



### ...and Brits not too bad, either

BRITISH-built models also fared well in the Driver Power survey, with Nissan's Sunderland-produced Juke mini-crossover/SUV topping the in-car technology section and the Qashqai crossover coming fourth in it.

Both models also did well in the Driver Power Top 15, finishing 13th and sixth respectively, though the top Brit motor was Jaguar's elegant XF (fifth), pictured.

# Seductive new Aveo all set to lift Chevrolet's standing in UK

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

CHEVROLET'S first Aveo supermini was a bits-and-pieces car, first seeing life as the Daewoo Kalos before gaining the Chevy nose and a new name late on.

It was cheap but easily outclassed. It's successor is affordable and Korean-built, too, yet cannot be dismissed so lightly, showing that Chevrolet is getting serious about competing in the UK and Europe.

Rivals at the bargain-basement end of the supermini sector will be feeling the pressure – especially the French marques and fellow Korean-built models.

Even before buyers have noted the tempting £9,995 price and decent spec, they may have been seduced by the Aveo's looks.

Offered only as a five-door, it still manages a rakish coupé-style enhanced by concealed rear-door-handles and a rising crease line on the lower flanks.

To complement the distinctive Chevrolet split grille, it also wears twin-pod chromed headlights rather than the fully-glazed front lighting that is the norm.

It really makes the car stand out, while the interior has its own distinctions with a motorcycle-inspired cluster of dials and gauges and two jet-intake-style air vents on the dashboard, plus many clever storage points including two gloveboxes.

A long wheelbase helps deliver a good ride and allows an airy cabin, with exceptional rear head and legroom and width – there's also a deep boot that expands into a big cargo area with one or all three rear seats folded.

However, as you might expect of a value champion, the plastics used inside are tough rather than classy; preferable, though, to the sometimes shiny and easily-scratched materials on the previous Kalos/Aveo.

Typically, Chevrolet's low asking prices don't

#### CHEVROLET AVEO 1.3 LT VCDi ECODIESEL: £12,795



#### FACT FILE

Driving appeal:

Image:

Space:

Running costs:

Reliability:

How green?:

Best rival: **Ford Fiesta**

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short-change on features: even LS entry trim comes with air-con, cruise control, electric and heated door mirrors, electric front windows and six airbags – contributing to a maximum five-star EuroNCAP safety rating.

Mid-spec LT trim (from £10,995) gets you into alloys, steering wheel audio controls and more, while flagship LTZ (from £12,195) is luxurious, and all come with Chevrolet's five-year/100,000-mile warranty.

On top of all this, though, the Aveo is a decent drive, which won't harm the brand's aim to target younger buyers who demand value for fun.

The car's all-new chassis feels taut on the road yet not at the expense of ride quality, while cabin noise is low for this class.

All engines are new, economical and hard to fault: the 85bhp 1.2-litre entry-level petrol model is the best-seller but feels slightly under-powered – keen drivers will prefer the 99bhp 1.4-litre (from £12,375) petrol.

The stand-out engine, though, is the 1.3-litre

diesel, available with 74bhp and 94bhp outputs and five- or six-speed box. It's smooth, refined and economical (from £12,345) and even available as a road-tax-beating LT Ecodiesel model (£12,795). The latter was our test car and wears its green credentials well, being quite lively and cruising comfortably on motorways.

At a modest £400 or so more compared with the lower-output version and an official combined fuel consumption of 78.4 against 74.3mpg, it looks a good call, though both versions have low-enough CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to escape road tax.

There is also a six-speed auto option for the 1.4 petrol model, but the changes are rather jerky.

Nevertheless, along with the slightly low-rent interior – surely something Chevy will tackle at facelift time – it is one of the few things that this bold new Chevrolet supermini can be criticised for.

It bodes well for its competitiveness in what has become one of the toughest UK motor sectors as buyers drive to downsize.

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Vehicle shown is an Aveo 1.2 LS featuring metallic paint at an extra cost of £375. Offer available to individuals for orders received between 2nd April 2012 and 1st July 2012. \*Figures based on a non-maintenance personal contract hire package over 48 months and 6,000 miles per year (max). An advance rental of £1,908 is payable, then 47 monthly rentals of £159. Rentals and excess charges are based on the current VAT Rate. An excess charge of up to 7.65pm for Aveo will be applied for mileage in excess of 6,000 miles p.a. Excess charges also apply if the car is not serviced and maintained in accordance with manufacturer guidelines and returned to Chevrolet Leasing in a condition commensurate with the BVRLA Fair Wear & Tear guidelines for its age and mileage. Package includes R.F.L. and Chevrolet Assistance. Offer subject to availability and status. UK supplied vehicles only. For full specification, details, terms and conditions contact your local Dealer. Guarantee and/or indemnity may be required. Applicants must be 18 or over. Details correct at time of publication and may vary, e.g. if list price changes. Personal contract hire by ALD Automotive Ltd, trading as Chevrolet Leasing, Oakwood Park, Lodge Causeway, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 3JA. Warranty expires 5 years or 100,000 miles, whichever occurs first. This offer includes Chevrolet's standard Customer Care Component of a 2 year unlimited mileage manufacturer's warranty, and third year manufacturer's warranty with a 60,000 mile limitation. Years 4 and 5 are an insurance-backed warranty up to a maximum of 100,000 miles. The warranty excludes wear and tear and serviceable items. The vehicle has to be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule. 5 year warranty is available on retail registrations only. Calls may be recorded and monitored for training purposes. Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km). Chevrolet Aveo range: Urban: 34 (8.3) - 67.2 (4.2), Extra Urban: 55.3 (5.1) - 85.6 (3.3), Combined: 44.8 (6.3) - 78.4 (3.6). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 147 - 95g/km.

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# Chinese invasion starts from Great Wall

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

CAN'T help noting that the first of many Chinese motor brands tipped to invade the UK is named after the Great Wall of China – apparently built to resist invasions.

More worrying, though, is that Great Wall Motors is less than 40 years old and was only allowed to build trucks until 2008 yet has since become China's biggest producer of SUVs.

However, it has chosen one of its other success stories, the Steed pick-up, to establish an invasion beachhead.

With a starting price of just £13,998 for the standard four-door cab, after the usual commercial vehicle-tax deductions, it won't struggle – similarly-equipped rivals cost thousands more.

Apart from that aggressive pricing, it's also shrewd to launch a brand with a pick-up: worries about depreciation with an unknown name can be largely discounted as real-world buyers tend to run them into the ground and then go again.

The Steed certainly looks robust enough to handle workhorse environments like construction or farming, while a large load-area plus four-door/five-seat cab means it's versatile, too.

The reinforced cargo bay is 1,380mm long, 1,460mm wide and 480mm deep and the maximum payload is 1,050kg, while the Steed will tow 2,000kg with a 'braked' trailer and 750kg unbraked.

Great Wall claims that the vehicle's gutsy 2.0-litre turbodiesel offers class-leading fuel economy



– 34mpg on the official combined cycle – and the lowest insurance rating (from 7A) in the pick-up sector. When the terrain gets more challenging, the driver can engage the low-range gearbox as well as 'on demand' four-wheel-drive – the latter at speeds of up to 12mph.

Within the keen pricing, Great Wall includes an astonishing range of standard kit. The Steed S entry model has 16-inch alloys, remote central locking, Thatcham-approved Category 1 alarm, electric windows, sound system with USB/MP3 and Bluetooth connectivity, steering-wheel aud-

io controls, air-con, heated front seats and full leather interior.

For £2,000 more, the Steed SE flagship gains body-coloured hard-top canopy and spoiler, extra chrome trim, black roof rails, load bay liner and rear parking sensors.



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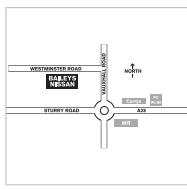
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Offers subject to availability, all figures correct at time of going to press April 2012. \*To qualify for this offer you must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement. Advance Payment (AP) valid for applications to Motability for 1st April to 30th June 2012. Offers may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. At participating dealers only. Selected models only.

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\*Not available on Expression, ES, ES Tech & Tech Line models. \*\*Finance Deposit Allowance not available on Corsa S or Limited Edition. Offers available for registrations between 03.04.12 and 02.07.12. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Vauxhall Motor Finance RH15R. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. †Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. ^Customer deposit shown after deduction of Vauxhall contribution. Metallic paint finish available at an extra cost. First year insurance offer available on Corsa S and Limited Edition models only. The offer will cover the full premium for drivers aged between 22-75 (motor policy only) and provides a £1000 contribution for drivers aged between 19-21. Offer not available for drivers below 19 years old. Only available through Vauxhall Insurance. Policies are underwritten by Ageas Insurance Ltd. Other terms and conditions apply. This offer is valid until 2nd July 2012.